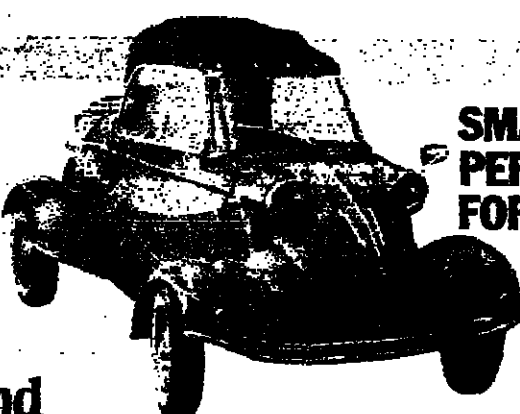
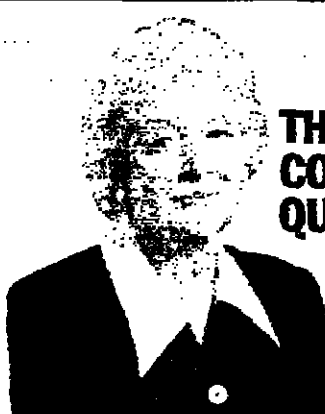




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Julia Neuberger on a thoroughly modern heroine



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Minister starts storm with 'beggars are Scottish' outburst



Maclean proud Scot

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAVID MACLEAN, the Home Office Minister, last night caused a storm when he declared that most beggars were Scots and that they were on the streets through choice.

He added: "There are no genuine beggars. Those who are in need have got all the social benefits they require. Every time we go and check, we find they won't go in hostels. Beggars are doing so out of choice because they find it more pleasant."

He was accused by the Prime Minister of hypocrisy, after he backed tough "zero tolerance" policies against petty criminals and said he would not give money to beggars. Mr Blair said he wanted the homeless to be taken off the streets but only if there was proper alternative provision.

Last night government and Tory party sources rallied to Mr Maclean's defence. Terry Dicks, MP for Hayes and Harlington, was outspoken: "I am not certain they are all Scots, but I think those who are begging should be housed down and that the disgrace of cardboard city should be broken up... those

we should be looking after are those who have been abused at home. But most of the others, I have to say, are just scum."

A spokeswoman for Shelter said that many youngsters under 18 were forced to beg on the streets because the Government had cut their benefit. She added that evidence did not suggest more beggars came from Scotland than the North or the Home Counties. Crisis, an organisation to help the homeless, said: "Beggings is not a chosen way of life... it is a bleak, miserable existence." A spokesman for Centrepoint, the homeless charity, said that seven out of ten young people it saw come from the London area.

Letters, page 23

£200 rabies test under plan for pet passports

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

PETS could soon accompany their owners on holiday abroad under government proposals to relax the world's toughest quarantine rules and replace them with a £200 "rabies day" rabies check.

The new control would apply to animals travelling from "isolated, rabies-free countries", and they would have to be fitted with a microchip, proving that they had been vaccinated.

The "passport-for-pets" scheme is based on the Swedish model, and comes after intense pressure from groups, including diplomats and Service families, who claim that quarantine is too draconian.

The fast-track system is likely to apply to animals travelling from the European Union, Cyprus, Malta and possibly Australia and New Zealand. But the change is unlikely to affect those coming from America and Canada — and certainly not to South America, Africa or Asia. That means there will be no comfort for Chris Patten, the returning Governor of Hong Kong who has championed the passport scheme, or for his Highland terriers, Whisky and Soda.

Senior ministers, recognising that the issue could be a vote-winner at the general election, have set out to devise a "good, tight, practical system". Douglas Hogg, Agriculture Minister, has told Cabinet colleagues that he is determined to maintain the level of protection to the public "against rabies, but he is convinced that scientific advances

now allow checks to be made on animals within a day.

Under the proposals to be outlined in a Green Paper within a month, a number of the microchip would have to match the official documents issued by a vet. This would verify that the animal had been vaccinated and that a blood test had proven the vaccine had taken.

Pets would not travel into Britain with their owners but would be handed over to an authorised carrier at the foreign port or airport. On arrival in Britain, the carrier would be responsible for delivering the animal to one of a number of checking centres, which are likely to be set up at existing registered quarantine kennels.

At the checking centres, the pets would be assessed by vets and their documents scrutinised for a proposed fee of £200. If the paperwork was in order and the pet deemed fit and healthy, it would be allowed home with its owner. Vets would, however, have the right to detain any animal or papers about which they had doubts — and all animals travelling from countries harbouring rabies would still face six months in quarantine.

Travellers attempting to smuggle animals into the country would still face tough penalties, but ministers believe that people will be discouraged from smuggling as they would no longer have to pay £1,500 quarantine fees.

A Whitehall source said: "The new regime would be very tightly monitored and the

checks would be tough. It is not going to be a free and open system, it will be as tough as the present arrangements. But it would provide for most people travelling abroad on holiday as well as those going on longer stays."

Lady Fretwell, chairman for Passport for Pets, said: "If this proposal is right, then it would be fantastic news and I would welcome it. I assume that the vet checking the animals would be totally independent of the kennels used as checking centres."

Paul DeVile, chief veterinary officer for the National Canine Defence League and a strong opponent of any relaxation, said: "I have reservations about whether we could cope with the huge numbers of animals that would come into the country. We would need to know the safeguards from third-party countries via EU countries."

Guy Tamplin, of the Quarantine Kennel Owners' Association, was deeply sceptical. "If we are looking at rabies-free countries, the only places are Australia, New Zealand, Iceland, Hawaii, Portugal and Spain. But France has rabies and if we are saying pets can travel through France, that is not rabies-free."

Labour is also committed to reviewing the quarantine rules and Elliot Morley, the party's animal welfare spokesman, said yesterday that he believed a system based on vaccination, bloodtesting and microchip identification could be feasible.



Canvas characters come to life at the National Gallery on Wednesday when look-alikes model costumes made by Wimbledon School of Art students. Charlie Copson chose Hannah Sida, above, to be Moroni's *La Dama in Rosso*

Archbishop tells Church to stress British successes

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of York has praised Britain's achievements and urged the country to focus on its successes.

In remarks that could be seen to be supporting the Government, Dr David Hope said: "I am not saying we have never had it so good. I would not want to say that. But the overriding pessimism has to be tempered and balanced by a recognition of some positive factors about where Britain is and some of this country's successes."

In his first important interview since translation from London in October 1995, Dr Hope urged Church leaders to consider carefully what they say in the run-up to an election. But he insisted the Church had the right to speak out on politics provided it avoided party political matters.

"The Church must be involved in political affairs," he said. "But bishops must not get themselves too involved in party political programmes."

He made his remarks before the Bishop of Edinburgh

wrote an article in *The Church Times* urging voters to support Labour. The Right Rev Richard Holloway, who is primate of the Scottish Episcopal Church, said the general election offered the Labour Party a chance to transform the "unjust reality of life in Britain".

Dr Hope said Church leaders should urge worshippers to consider moral and spiritual issues at the ballot box, echoing the recent document from the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales, *The Common Good*. But he said: "We have to counter this sense that we are on a path of national decline and that the future is bleak. There is much work to do, whoever wins the election, but it is not all bad news."

Dr Hope was speaking out against a background of public concern that the Church of England leadership has become irretrievably left-wing after a series of Anglican bishops have sung the praises of the Labour Party.

Continued on page 2, col 5
Leading article, page 23

Population shift

World population growth is slowing for the first time, excluding the Black Death and the flu epidemic at the end of the Great War, a geographers' conference heard. Page 10

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CROSSWORD 26
COURT & SOCIAL 24

Dying prisoner kept chained to bed

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Prison Service launched an inquiry last night into why a man was chained to his bed by his leg and arms until three hours before he died in a cancer hospice.

Geoffrey Thomas, 25, a remand prisoner, was kept shackled for three days in spite of pleas from his family and medical staff. The two officers guarding him had no discretion to let him go and he was released only after an emergency bail order was granted. By then he was unconscious.

Last night Mr Thomas's family, doctors and local Labour MP joined penal reform groups in condemning the prison authorities for their "callous" behaviour.

Marina Davies, his mother, said: "I begged the guards to

take his chains off but they would not listen. We asked to be left alone with him but they would not do that either. By the time they finally took off the chains and left us with him, he was unconscious."

Mr Thomas, of Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, had been remanded to Cardiff jail in October accused of burglary. He had previous convictions and was in custody because he had a history of not answering to bail. He became ill on December 23 and was admitted to hospital. There, he was diagnosed as being in the final stages of stomach cancer and he was transferred to the Marie Curie Centre at Penarth on New Year's Day. He died on January 3.

Professor Iora Finlay, the hospice's medical director, said: "Having a chain on and two prison officers in attendance seemed unnecessarily

high security for a man who was so ill. Mr Thomas couldn't have run away anywhere. He needed help to sit up in bed. His mother was signing the papers to take him over on bail, and within 15 minutes of that he died."

Tony Pearson, the service's director of security, admitted that it was very unlikely that it would be necessary to chain a prisoner in a hospice. He said: "We have to measure humanitarian needs against the need to hold people in secure custody. Whether we got the balance right in this case or not is something we shall have to work out from the inquiry I have set up."

The inquiry will be conducted by Jim Mullin, governor of Long Lartin jail, assisted by a doctor. Mr Pearson said that if the service had acted inappropriately, the family would receive an apology.



Thomas: pleas ignored

Halifax float handout will average £1,290

THE 8.5 million members of the Halifax Building Society will receive free shares worth an average of £1,290 when the society abandons its traditional mutual status and becomes a bank in June. Its stock market value could be as high as £12 billion.

Those who are both savers and borrowers will get a maximum windfall of £6,215. The average payment to each member is 23 per cent more than originally predicted.

The Halifax's market debut will be the largest extension of share ownership, increasing the number of private shareholders in Britain by some 30 per cent to 12 million.

Share bonanza, page 27
Tempus, page 30
Weekend Money, page 31

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DAILY TELEGRAPH

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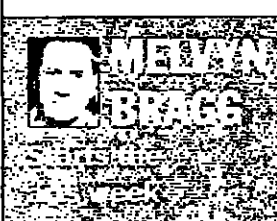
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Major hints at May 1 election

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN DHAKA

JOHN MAJOR yesterday gave the clearest indications yet that he is aiming to call a general election on May 1. In Bangalore, India, as he continued his six-day tour, Mr Major sharply rebuffed suggestions that he had given up hope of carrying on until May.

At an impromptu press conference after flying in from Calcutta, he appeared surprised when asked whether the decision to call the Wirral South by-election, which will result in him going into minority government if he loses, meant that May was being abandoned as an election possibility.

"No. Certainly not. Certainly not," he said with surprising emphasis. May 1 has been his preferred date for more than a year and nothing that has happened in recent weeks has shifted his view that it offers the best chance of pulling off another surprise victory. He could still be thwarted by a Commons defeat on a confidence motion, which would force him into an earlier poll.

Mr Major received an unusual endorsement as he left India when Dave Gowda, the Indian Prime Minister, said he hoped he would win the general election. The two have been getting on well but Mr Gowda's endorsement

The Referendum Party launches a £1 million poster campaign today, in which it accuses Brussels of imposing more than 100 rules on Britain every week. The campaign by Sir James Goldsmith's party, headlined "Brussels Spouts", will use more than 4,500 sites, including all the billboards around the Labour headquarters in Walworth Road, south London, and a large poster site outside the railway station in Huntingdon, John Major's constituency. The party is also running newspaper advertisements claiming that it has "chilling proof" that the public was lied to about the loss of sovereignty involved in joining the Common Market.

John Campbell, page 22

amounts to a breach of the convention under which prime ministers do not get involved in party politics in other countries.

Brian Mawhinney, Conservative chairman, announced on Thursday that the by-

election will be called early next month — in spite of the imminence of the general election — and will take place late in February or early in March. The move does not rule out March 20 as a possible date. It may point to April 10, the

other contender, or May 1, in order to allow time for reactions to defeat to calm. But, as Labour leaders have swiftly noted, it also leaves open the way for Mr Major to call the by-election to prevent Labour forcing it in a Commons vote — only then to announce the general election for March and eliminate the need for the by-election.

Mr Major, and sources close to him, yesterday seemed to be steering away from that option by playing down the likelihood of a March election. He told journalists that the Wirral South decision was prompted by a desire to honour parliamentary conventions that by-elections after an MP's death should be held

within three months. The seat, where there is a Tory majority of over 8,000, became vacant after the death of Barry Porter. Mr Major and other ministers believe that the by-election can help the Tory cause by effectively prolonging the length of the election campaign. A local campaign followed by a national campaign would allow a lengthy period for the scrutiny of rival policies which he believes to be the Tories' best card.

Neither Mr Major nor his Cabinet colleagues are predicting a Wirral victory but it has already been decided that a substantial campaign will be mounted.

Major in India, page 15

Archbishop paints a picture of hope from bleak landscape

THE Archbishop of York's optimism results from his experience of visiting communities throughout his diocese and province. They have convinced him that the picture of life in Britain was not as bleak as it was sometimes painted.

But his intervention in the debate on Church and politics is not without calculated significance. The Church's voice recently has been a litany of Britain's woes, some focused directly, some indirectly, at failures of the Government.

Dr David Hope is clearly trying not only to redress the balance but also to show there is a voice within the Church that is not afraid to stand up for traditional, conservative values. Coming at the beginning of an election year, his words will encourage ordinary clerics to follow his example in their daily and weekly round of visits, services and preaching.

Many are disillusioned with the apparent domination of the House of Bishops by the politically correct, liberal left wing and feel the picture of apparent decline under a Tory Government, which the established Church seems so quick to condemn, is not necessarily complete. The danger is that the Church of



Dr David Hope is anxious to show that a voice within the Church is not afraid to speak out for traditional values, Ruth Gledhill reports

England very often can be judged by the agenda of the General Synod, when often that is not the agenda being pursued in the parish," the Yorkshire-born cleric said. "For example, there are many criticisms of the health service, some of them are legitimate. Yet the development of medical technology of surgery has been significant indeed."

That in turn had created problems about how much was spent. "People begin to expect more and more, and at some point there have to be crucial and painful questions asked because there are limits to the kind of money that is available. But every country is facing the same questions."

On the other side of the coin, he criticised the "insidious" problem of welfare dependence. "It is extraordinary how much is being spent on the welfare state. There is evidence from across the world that welfare destroys as much as it protects. The

political consensus in Britain seems to be quite advanced in that sense, that there is a problem and we are going to tackle it and not add to it."

He went on: "I discern a restlessness and a spiritual searching for the deep down things of the human being. We, the Church, ought to be addressing this. We ought to be speaking more of the things of God to the people of the land. At the parochial level I see many clergy and laity faithfully pursuing and responding to the Church's witness and mission."

"That is what we need to keep clear before us. Coming from the Tractarian tradition, I am very conscious that everything needs to be seen in the wider perspective of eternity, of how the things of God engage with our lives today."

Bishops who engage in politics should remember the Church's fundamental mission: "The Church is there for the celebration of the sacra-



Dr David Hope at home yesterday: "We need to celebrate our successes"

ments, prayer and the reading of the scriptures. It is important that we go on rehearsing and setting out what the basic understanding and tradition and teaching is in these areas."

He cited reports from early this century, where language used about the disintegration of the family was far more apocalyptic than it is even today, and said the Church had a strong tradition of teachings on areas such as abortion and euthanasia.

"We must not underestimate the downside. The Jamie Bulger murder, Dunblane and the murder of Philip Lawrence, have certainly raised questions about the nature of our society, and deeper questions for me about our human nature given us by God, and the potential that there is in each of us both for good and evil."

seeing the things of this world in the light of eternity."

"The general impression is that in 1997, whatever the results of an election, there are good prospects for Britain," Dr Hope continued. "There does seem to be somehow a loss of national self-confidence. We need to celebrate our successes. I believe there are considerable resources and strengths in the country which we need to talk up."

Creda, page 10
Leading article, page 23

Archbishop hails positive Britain

Continued from page 1
ises of the Labour Party and accused the Tories of failing to put morality at the heart of government policy. "We can be our own worst enemies, both as a nation and a Church," he said. "We must speak up for Britain and the way people have responded to new challenges."

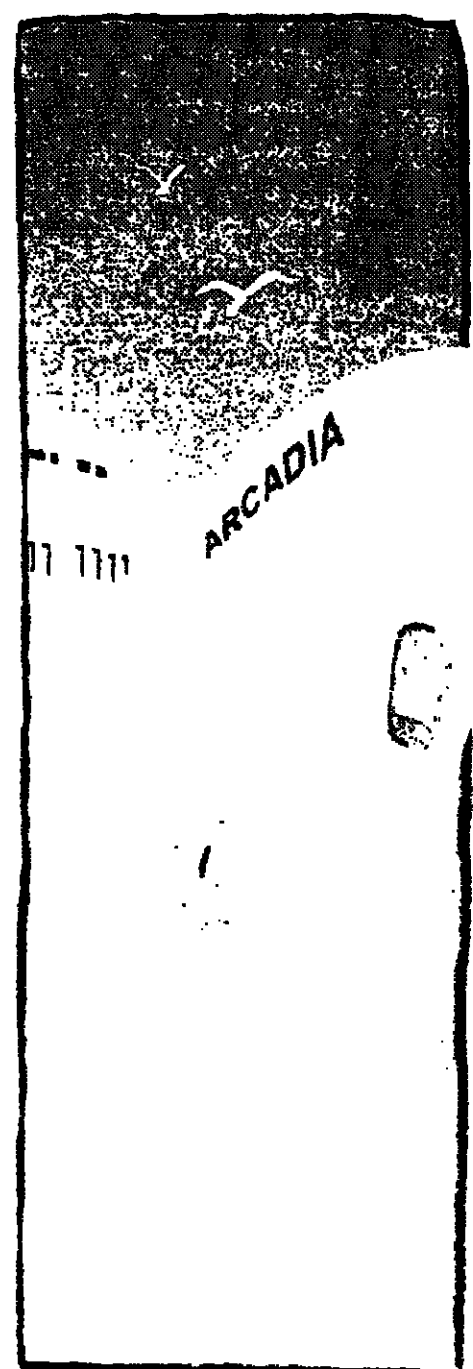
Britain was the envy of the world in some important areas, and this was not acknowledged often enough by bishops.

"If you look at Britain in the context of Europe or the wider world community, people outside these shores are rather more envious of us than we realise. For example, the anti-Europeans are allowed a much stronger and more obvious voice here than elsewhere in Europe."

The Bishop of Edinburgh was criticised by Sir Michael Hirst, chairman of the Scottish Tory party. Sir Michael, who is also a Church of Scotland Elder, said:

"Bishop Holloway is old enough to remember the last Labour government, which brought much chaos and misery to the most disadvantaged in this society." The Scottish Tory Reform Group also called on the Archbishop of Canterbury publicly to disown the "irresponsible and foolish comments" made by Mr Holloway.

Leading article, page 23



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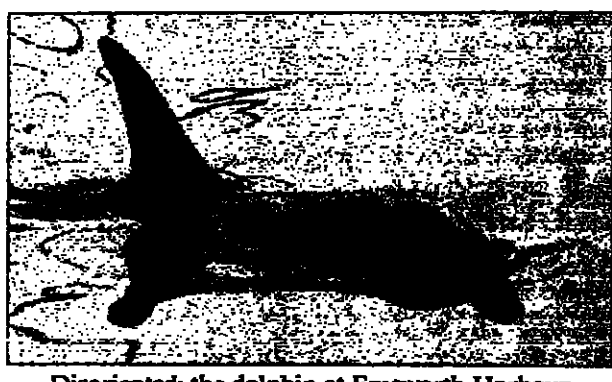
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Disoriented: the dolphin at Emsworth Harbour

Woman dies in bid to rescue dog on frozen river

By KATHRYN KNIGHT
AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

A WOMAN died yesterday after falling into an icy river while trying to rescue her dog. The animal survived.

She spent almost two hours in the Thames at Reading before being rescued and taken to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, where doctors struggled in vain to keep her alive. Police had been alerted by someone who saw her in difficulties from a house near the river.

The victim was walking her dog along the river when it ran onto the frozen surface. She is understood to have followed it onto a patch of thin ice that collapsed beneath her. After the alarm was raised, police divers and two helicopters were called in to search for her.

Three other people have died over Christmas while trying to rescue dogs on frozen water. On Boxing Day, Tony Rees, from Merthyr Tydfil, died after trying to save a spaniel drowning in an icy lake. Three days later William

and Jill Willis, from Ayr, Essex, fell into a lake in a country park after running over ice to try to free their trapped dog.

Last night time was running out for an ailing and confused dolphin trapped in cold water in a yacht marina. The dolphin arrived in the Targuin Boatyard in Emsworth Harbour, Hampshire, at 9.30am yesterday and spent most of the day swimming aimlessly in circles.

Attempts to get alongside the bewildered creature in a flat-bottomed boat and coax it out to sea had to be abandoned as darkness fell. Ray Kemp, an environmental agency spokesman, said: "The dolphin may have come ashore after being disoriented by winter storms and now seems unable to find its way out."

A couple in Lowestoft, Suffolk, said they had saved two ailing ornamental fish by giving them the kiss of life. John Day, a car park inspector, said: "I opened their mouths with my thumb and forefinger and gently blew air in."

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Advisers seek to divorce Prince from scandals



The Prince feels that the media has savaged him

THE first shots in a campaign to rehabilitate the Prince of Wales were fired yesterday after a five-year media obsession with his private life. Leading figures in his charities gave radio and television interviews to emphasise his good works.

In the year in which the Prince's Trust, the largest charity of its kind in Britain with a £30 million annual turnover, celebrates its twenty-first anniversary, the Prince's advisers hope that media attention will shift from his divorce and the continuing shadowy presence of Camilla Parker Bowles to his more positive achievements. But there is little sign of a strategy to rescue him

■ Royal charity chiefs are dusting off the Prince of Wales's halo. But Alan Hamilton sees little sign of an effective strategy to rescue him from public unpopularity

from his doldrums of unpopularity, underlined by a vote during Tuesday night's ITV debate on the monarchy.

News of a meeting on Wednesday between senior officials at St James's Palace and the directors of his main charities, at which the Prince was not present, was allowed to leak out yesterday. Reports that the meeting was of a new committee of advisers dedicated to making the Prince a

more acceptable king-in-waiting have been denied.

Tom Shebbeare, director of the Prince's Trust, told BBC Radio 4's *The World At One* yesterday that the Prince's divorce had been a watershed and that it was time to turn a fresh page. But the Prince was not suddenly going to adopt easier or more fashionable causes than his concerns of inner city regeneration, youth unemployment, architecture and organic farming. David

Starkey, the historian, told the same programme that earlier this century the Royal Family has sold itself "brilliantly" on family values but that pitch had fallen to pieces. "To sell it now as a do-gooding monarchy will not grab the headlines."

Palace officials dismissed reports of a five-year plan to improve the Prince's image. They are nevertheless aware of the looming date of 2002, when attention will be focused on the Queen's golden jubilee and the Prince's fitness to succeed her.

The feeling of a new broom at St James's Palace has been created by the departure shortly before Christmas of Commander Richard Aylard,

the Prince's long-standing private secretary, who is said to have persuaded his master to make a public admission of adultery with Mrs Parker Bowles. The commander has been succeeded by his deputy, Stephen Lamport, on secondment from the Foreign Office.

In June he will travel to Hong Kong to witness the handover of the colony to China, but Palace officials stressed yesterday that the Prince was not taking over state visits from the Queen, as some reports have suggested. The Queen does not make a habit of being present when the remaining fragments of the Empire are given away.

There are no signs of a significant change in the Prince's programme. On Monday he will be in Edinburgh promoting the idea of study support centres, a highly successful Prince's Trust scheme to provide schoolchildren from noisy or crowded homes with quiet

places to do their homework. In the spring he will spearhead a trade mission to Gulf states and will make an official visit to Bangladesh as a prelude to the Queen's tour of the Indian subcontinent to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of independence.

Letters, page 23

Opera house says it 'cannot afford' schools matinées

BY DAIZA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Opera House says it may be forced to scrap its subsidised-price matinée performances for schools because it cannot afford them.

The admission comes after matinees for the 1995-96 season were saved by the eleventh-hour intervention of arts patrons — despite the company having received a £78 million grant from the National Lottery partly aimed at improving accessibility.

The gesture by David and Janice Blackburn saved Covent Garden from a storm of accusations as critics said that the poor were once again subsidising the rich. But yesterday history seemed to be repeating itself.

The company, which insists it is urgently seeking a sponsor, needs £90,000 to ensure that children can attend six schools matinees — three ballets and three operas. The house is also £63 million short of its £214 million redevelopment appeal, for which fundraising continues.

Darryl Jaffray, a former Royal Ballet dancer and head of the house's ballet education, expressed dismay over the possible loss of the matinees, which are seen by children who would not otherwise be able to attend.

The programme includes preparation with teachers and

providing the children with study packs about the production. "We see a higher level of attention and understanding from the young people than from adult audiences. At the end, they go absolutely mad and boo the baddies. It's amazing."

The waiting list for the subsidised tickets is "double-over-subscribed", she said. One primary school pupil, Lynsey Bryant, wrote to her: "I liked talking to the dancers. I have never been to Covent Garden before, so it was nice to go. I would really like to go again with my family. But it cost too much."

Ms Jaffray said that the lottery grant was "for bricks and not for us", adding: "We run a huge education programme all over the country every day of the week."

The company is awaiting news this month of its Arts Council core funding, but Keith Cooper, director of corporate affairs, said that the matinees were in addition to the performance schedule for which funding was given. "The grant we receive from the Arts Council only amounts to 37 per cent of our overall running costs. So anything we do beyond funding our education is sponsorship-dependent."

Mr Blackburn said that

anyone who had experienced Covent Garden's work with children felt that its image as a stuffy, elitist place was unjustified. If more people were aware of their education work, he said, they would see the opera house in a different light.

The support given by the Blackburns had preserved education programmes, which included lectures at Central St Martin's and Glasgow School of Art, and activities at the Whitechapel Art Gallery; next year, they are sponsoring education programmes at the Tate Gallery. Their help also ensured that the house was filled to capacity yesterday morning as children aged seven upwards attended a production of *Sleeping Beauty*.

Every child approached by *The Times* expressed excitement at coming. Some dressed for the occasion: their best party-dress was under their anorak.

The audience included a group from the special unit of the Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Emma, 9, said: "I like ballet because I like the way they toes point." Jasbir, an 11-year-old boy from Southall, west London, said: "It's wicked. The music's so good and the background looks nice. I saw



Children from Warrender school in Ruislip, west London, watching *Sleeping Beauty*. One 11-year-old said: "It's wicked. The music's so good"

part of it on *Blue Peter* and liked it."

One of the teachers, Chris Shasha from Oakfarm Infants School in Hillingdon, west London, said that the school matinees were "absolutely vital". "What an opportunity for the children. Such a great ballet and such a major hall. The majority would never be able to come otherwise."

Richard Morrison, page 21

Life in the South drove engineer to take his life

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

AN ENGINEER who moved from northern England to take a job in the South killed himself because he could not cope with the cultural differences and the cost of living.

Alan Morris, 46, a Civil Aviation Authority engineer and father of two, felt alienated when he was relocated from Manchester to Gatwick Airport, an inquest was told yesterday. He despaired of house prices that were double those in the North and hated being a stranger in the Surrey commuter belt where he and his family rented a house.

He was found hanged in the garage last month, 16 months after the move. He left a note saying that he loved his family and accusing the CAA of helping to push him over the edge.

His wife, Janet, wept as she told the inquest how she watched her husband of 22

years become increasingly unstable. "Before moving Alan was a very happy man. We lived in Chester but he didn't mind travelling to Manchester to work. It was a job he loved. But when he was told to move down south, everything changed. We tried to find a house but the prices were so much more down here."

"Alan was paying university fees of £4,500 a year for one of our daughters. I got myself a job at Sainsbury's, but even so Alan was taking most of the financial burden himself and the strain began to tell."

Her husband was also struggling to cope at work, where he was using unfamiliar equipment. He sought psychiatric help but things got "worse and worse."

Dr Michael Rowlands, Mr Morris's psychiatrist, said: "When the family moved they soon discovered that houses in

the North costing £90,000 cost up to £180,000 in Surrey. He felt uncomfortable in the South, feeling he didn't quite belong and that there were differences in culture. He also told me that he had the threat of a 25 per cent pay cut through the possible privatisation of the organisation he worked for."

Yesterday the CAA said that it was shocked and saddened by Mr Morris's death and was doing everything possible to support his family through a difficult time.

Neighbours said that they knew little about the family. One man living just a few doors away said: "I was very shocked to hear what had happened but we didn't know them and had no idea they had any problems."

Lois Lodge, the assistant Surrey coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide.

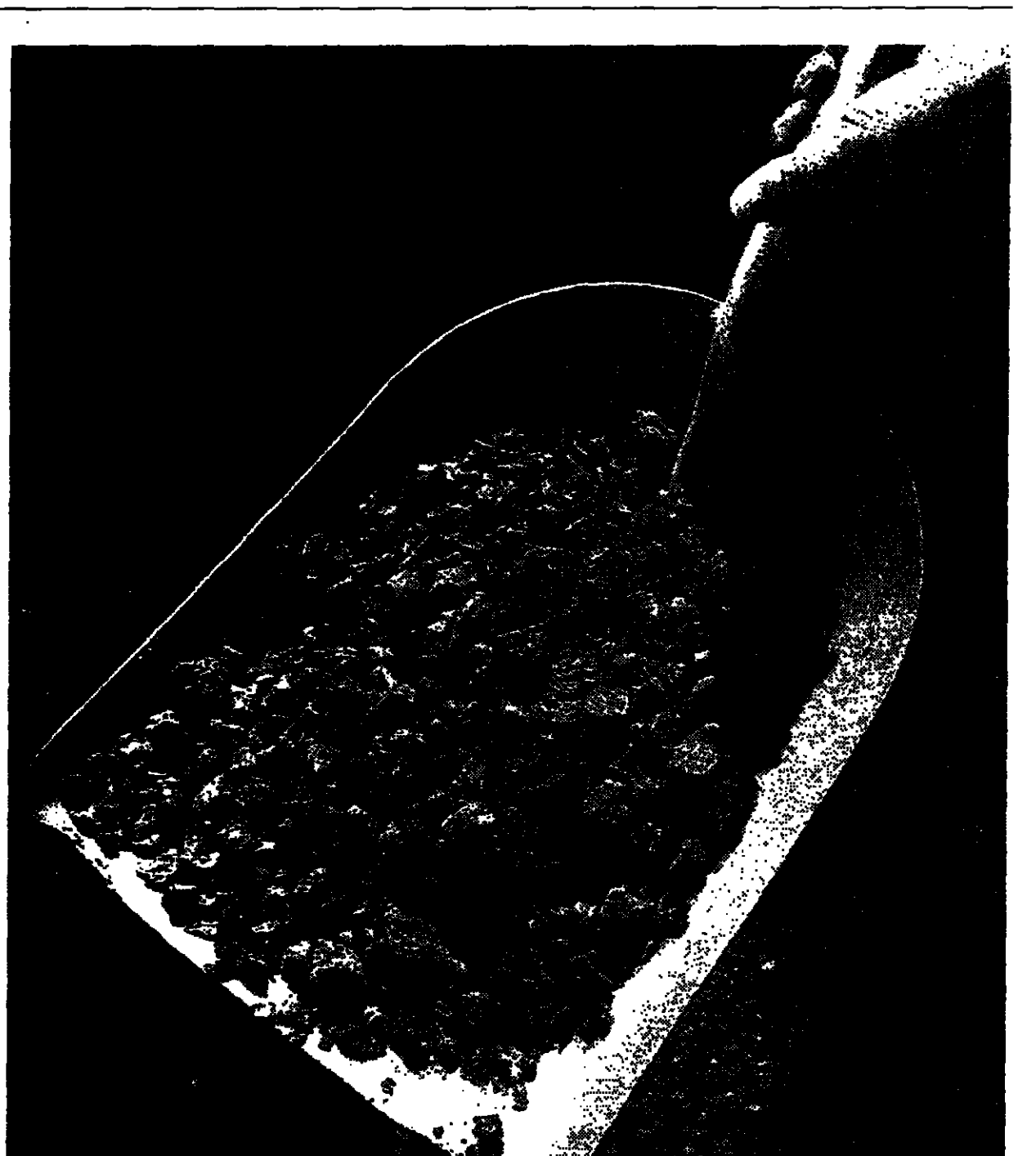
Pay victory served up to dinner ladies

DINNER ladies are likely to share £4 million in an out-of-court settlement of an equal pay dispute, it was announced yesterday.

The 1,500 women, members of the GMB general union and Unison public services union, will receive from several hundreds to several thousands of pounds if they sanction the deal next week.

The unions lodged equal pay claims at industrial tribunals on behalf of the women 18 months ago, when they worked for what was then Cleveland County Council. They claimed their pay was up to 40 per cent lower than other workers, including gardeners and refuse collectors who had bonus payments consolidated into their wages.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, said: "This sets the principle that women manual workers are entitled to the same treatment as men on bonuses."



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY



The Monkees in 1967 and reunited in London yesterday. From left: Mickey, Mike, Davey and Peter

Monkees return from the pop Ark

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

IT WOULD be easy to dismiss them as daydream believers but 30 years after they split up, the squeaky clean 1960s pop idols The Monkees are back. Yesterday they met in London to announce a British tour and a new album.

Peter, Mickey, Mike and Davey were manufactured by Californian marketing men as the American answer to The Beatles and produced four consecutive

number-one albums and three number-one singles, *I'm A Believer*, *Daydream Believer* and *Last Train to Clarksville*.

Their success came on the back of their own television series, which recorded their fictional ups and downs. Their real-life fortunes in the intervening decades have been mixed. Davey Jones, 52, the Manchester-born guitarist and only British member of the group, said: "It's not dollars and cents that matter. It's a case of enjoying what we do. It's

important for alimony and kids' schools, but it's not the main motivation."

There was an attempted reunion of the group in the late 1980s but Michael Nesmith, who had originally split the band when he bought himself out, declined to join. After recording the new album *Justus*, he agreed to play live. Peter, the tall, mop-topped one, said: "We'll be much better than before. We were all right to start with, now we're ferociously good."

His boat and a finger are gone, but Tony Bullimore may never want for chocolate again

Wave of publicity could improve sailor's cashflow

By Roger Maynard in Sydney, Daniel McGrory and Adrian Lee

IT WAS fast dawning on Tony Bullimore yesterday that getting shipwrecked was the most fortuitous mistake the self-confessed wheeler-dealer had ever made.

Although more seriously injured than first thought — he may lose a finger through frostbite — the 36-year-old lone yachtsman will find himself a valuable commodity by the time he steps onto dry land on Monday. In a global free-for-all, film companies and chocolate manufacturers are promising to make him a millionaire.

Max Markson, an agent who is Australia's answer to Max Clifford, is among the posse of businessmen waiting for HMAS Adelaide to dock. He confidently predicted yesterday that Mr Bullimore's heroic failure could easily be worth more than £1.5 million.

Erna Wass, Mr Bullimore's official spokeswoman,

whose sports management company signed him up before he set off, said: "We are loathe to go for it big time on the commercial front. The last thing we want to do is upset the Australian navy, which rescued him, by doing chocolate bar advertisements."

Later in the day, the company swallowed its reservations and contacted every major manufacturer, tantalising them with the prospect that it might have been their brand of chocolate that sustained Mr Bullimore during his four days and nights in the Southern Ocean.

Also interested were manufacturers of bottled water and companies wanting him to endorse clothing, hammocks and luxury yachts. A tea company yesterday placed an advertisement in a tabloid newspaper on the strength of the news that the first thing Mr Bullimore asked for when

he was rescued was a cup of tea.

Stephen Mulvany, Mr Bullimore's nephew and business partner, had no qualms about cashing in and accepted an offer from Richard Branson, Britain's other heroic failure of the week, to fly with the rest of the Bullimore family to Australia.

"He has lost everything," Mr Mulvany said. "That boat put him in debt. He popped out of the yacht so quickly because he didn't want the rescuers to cut it open and he is distressed that it can't be salvaged. This is his only chance to make a few bob so I told him to go for it." The Exide Challenger was not insured.

Mr Mulvany said his uncle was "overwhelmed by the excitement at home and the offers, but he is more proud of receiving a message from the Queen. He is truly British to the core."

Mr Mulvany said that his main worry was trying to persuade his uncle to stay silent for fear of jeopardising publishing deals. "He is so glib and he is so high he can't shut up but I told him he has to now."

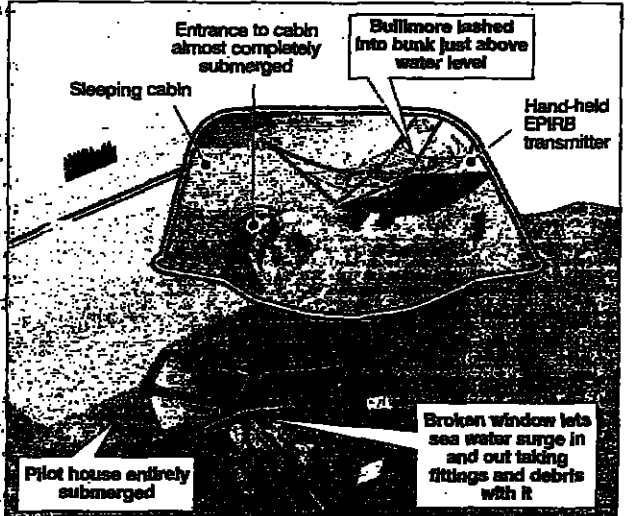
This command came too late to prevent a jubilant Mr Bullimore posing for photographs with the crew who rescued him and the Chief Petty Officer, Peter Wicker, whom he wanted to kiss after he pulled him from the sea.

He also revealed how he was almost killed when he was tempted to leave the safety of his boat after wrongly believing that rescue had arrived. "I was terrified because once I dived out I couldn't get back in."

With barely 24 hours of oxygen left he had wondered if



Tony Bullimore gives Chief Petty Officer Peter Wicker a kiss after being rescued. His nephew has since tried to restrain such behaviour



Items key to Tony Bullimore's survival — chocolate, bottled water and hammock — are the subject of frenzied bidding and likely to launch a flotilla of adverts

he was preparing his grave: "I worked out all the possibilities to make the end last as long as possible."

Clean-shaven and rested after the fried breakfast he had requested, Mr Bullimore said he could understand any anger over the cost of his rescue. "There is something a little absurd about the tremendous cost of rescuing people who do foolhardy things. I've thought about it very deeply and very traumatically and I don't know whether we've got the right to lean on society, communities or countries to say, 'Well, here we are, come and rescue us.'"

Mr Bullimore's wife Lalei,

brother Dave, Wesley Noble, the yacht's designer, and Mr Mulvany are due to fly out today, although the champagne reunion they intend may have to be in a hospital ward. Captain Raydon Gates on the Adelaide said: "Our doctor thinks he will need surgery on the finger severed when he closed the hatch and he may lose his left index finger from frostbite."

Mr Bullimore's movements around the ship were restricted yesterday because of severe frostbite on his feet and the medication he is taking means he has not yet been able to have a celebratory drink. He has made several calls to his

family in Bristol where Mrs Bullimore — who has taken Mr Mulvany's advice and is charging for her many television interviews — said: "We just want to hug him." She wants to be there in time to celebrate his 57th birthday on Thursday.

Mr Bullimore's family was poised to sign a deal with a daily newspaper and an Australian company was favourite to win exclusive television rights.

Phil Jones, deputy managing director of Exide Batteries, which sponsored Mr Bullimore's yacht, said the company was still delighted to be associated with the sailor. The

company was seemingly undeterred by pictures of its name on the upturned boat being beamed round the world. "We have no regrets, other than the trauma that Tony has gone through," Mr Jones said.

But Mr Bullimore also faces unwelcome attention from creditors when he arrives home. He admits that sailing has taken its toll on his business ventures.

One creditor, who is suing Mr Bullimore for £40,000 over involvement in the Bingley Hall exhibition centre near Birmingham, said last night: "He is not a hero in my eyes and a good few others. I

want that money back now he is coining it in."

Bradkeyne International Limited, a company run by Mr Bullimore, was dissolved in April 1986 with sizeable debts. It was founded in 1983 and set out a list of more than 50 possible sidelines, including wine and spirits, film and record production, caravan dealing, funeral directing, estate agency, private detection and bookmaking.

A second company, Bradkeyne International, with the same address and personnel, is still trading.

Simon Jenkins, page 22
Letters, page 25

No Pension No Life Is this how life is going to be?

From our Business Editor

IT'S a recurring nightmare. It won't go away. Every week is the same.

You have just £61 for everything. It's not even £9 a day. You've given up your car. New clothes. Holidays. Your pet.

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Financial Correspondent

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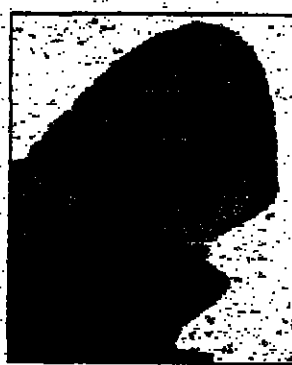
Jeering mothers drive paedophile off council estate

By Shirley English

A CONVICTED paedophile was moved to a secret address under police guard yesterday after demonstrators besieged the hostel where he was staying.

Alan Christie, 50, with an anorak covering his head, was escorted by two CID officers from his DSS bed-and-breakfast accommodation on a run-down Stirling estate. A cordon of six police officers protected him from the crowd. As he was driven away, lying under a blanket on the back seat of the car, about 50 women chanted: "Beast out, beast out."

Mr Christie was moved after a 2½-hour protest by mothers and grandmothers from the Raploch estate, five miles from Dunblane. They gathered shortly after 9am, first outside the council's local housing office and then outside the hostel, where they jammed on the door and shouted through the letterbox.



Christie leaving the DSS hostel yesterday

demanding that Christie left. They said that if the authorities did not get him out today, we will. Police maintained a low profile and moved the crowd back only once. Mr Christie's presence at Raploch had been leaked to the press the previous night after it became known that Stirling District Council had issued a letter to 12 schools in December warning them to be "extra

vigilant" as a paedophile had moved into the area. The man's identity had not been revealed but it later emerged that he was Mr Christie, jailed for a year last April after admitting lewd and libidinous conduct towards a four-year-old girl. He was released in October and lived in Callander before moving to Stirling, his home town.

He had previously spent 11 years in a psychiatric hospital after a similar attack in 1965. At his sentencing last year, a forensic clinical psychiatrist said there was a "significant risk" that Mr Christie would strike again as he suffered from "deviant sexual arousal".

Margaret Haney, 54, a mother of eight leading the protest, welcomed Mr Christie's rapid departure but criticised the council for using Raploch as a "dumping ground for weirdos". Linking the case to that of Thomas Hamilton, the Dunblane murderer, she said: "They all had suspicions about Hamilton



Margaret Haney, a mother of eight who led the protest, on the doorstep of the hostel where Mr Christie lived

but they didn't act on them. If we don't act, the council will wait until perhaps our children are raped and murdered and our schools shot up, and then they'll say 'Oh, we had a theory about him'. What's the use of that? The council foisted this man on us and did nothing to get him moved. We will be making sure this doesn't happen again."

Yesterday the council met a

group of residents to explain why Mr Christie had been housed at Raploch and to inform them that he had been moved at his own request.

Gordon Jeyes, Stirling's director of education, said: "The council has a policy of putting the welfare and safety of children first and we had no hesitation in writing to the headteachers making them aware of the situation." After

his release, Mr Christie started a year of treatment ordered by Stirling Sheriff Court. Last night the council refused to say where he was staying.

Alan Miller, chairman of the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties, said that the council's letter to schools displayed an unbalanced approach and had served only to provoke a lynch-mob mentality. "It was

bound to create fear and alarm and it is difficult to see how it assisted parents to do anything other than what they have done," he said.

The Raploch community has driven out sex offenders before. Last July, Geoff McAllister, 28, was forced out by a mob of women after they learnt from a magazine article that he had been convicted of a sex attack on his wife.

Offenders may have to register with police

By Richard Ford

CONVICTED sex offenders will have to register their names and addresses with the police under a Bill published last month.

The Sex Offenders Bill, which ministers hope will be enacted before the election, provides for the names and addresses to be placed on the police national computer. It covers offences including rape; intercourse with a girl under 16; incest by a man; indecent assault; and causing prostitution with a girl under 16. The duration of registration will vary with the sentence given: five years for an adult given a non-custodial sentence and life registration for anyone given a jail term of at least 30 months.

Information held will be available only to the police, who will, however, have the discretion to inform schools when a paedophile moves into their area. Under the Police Bill, employers of those with unsupervised access to children will be able to get information about prospective employees.

Pilots to face breath tests before take-off

By Richard Ford

AIRLINE pilots face being breathalysed under government plans to meet new EU rules.

Police officers would have the power to test pilots, air traffic controllers and maintenance crews for drink and drugs. The move comes after concern within the Transport Department that alcohol might be a factor in some crashes.

At present, police have no powers to breathalyse a pilot even though it is illegal to fly a plane under the influence of drink. The legal limit for flying will be set at 20 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood, compared with the limit of 80 for driving.

Carolyn Evans, technical secretary of the British Airlines Pilots' Association, said pilots did not object to tests but were concerned about how they were carried out. "I don't think passenger confidence would be too much enhanced by seeing their pilots blowing in a bag before take-off," she said on Radio 4's *The World at One*.

The Transport Department said that tests would be conducted by police based at airports but not in aircraft.

Irish law loses its seat at the hotel bar

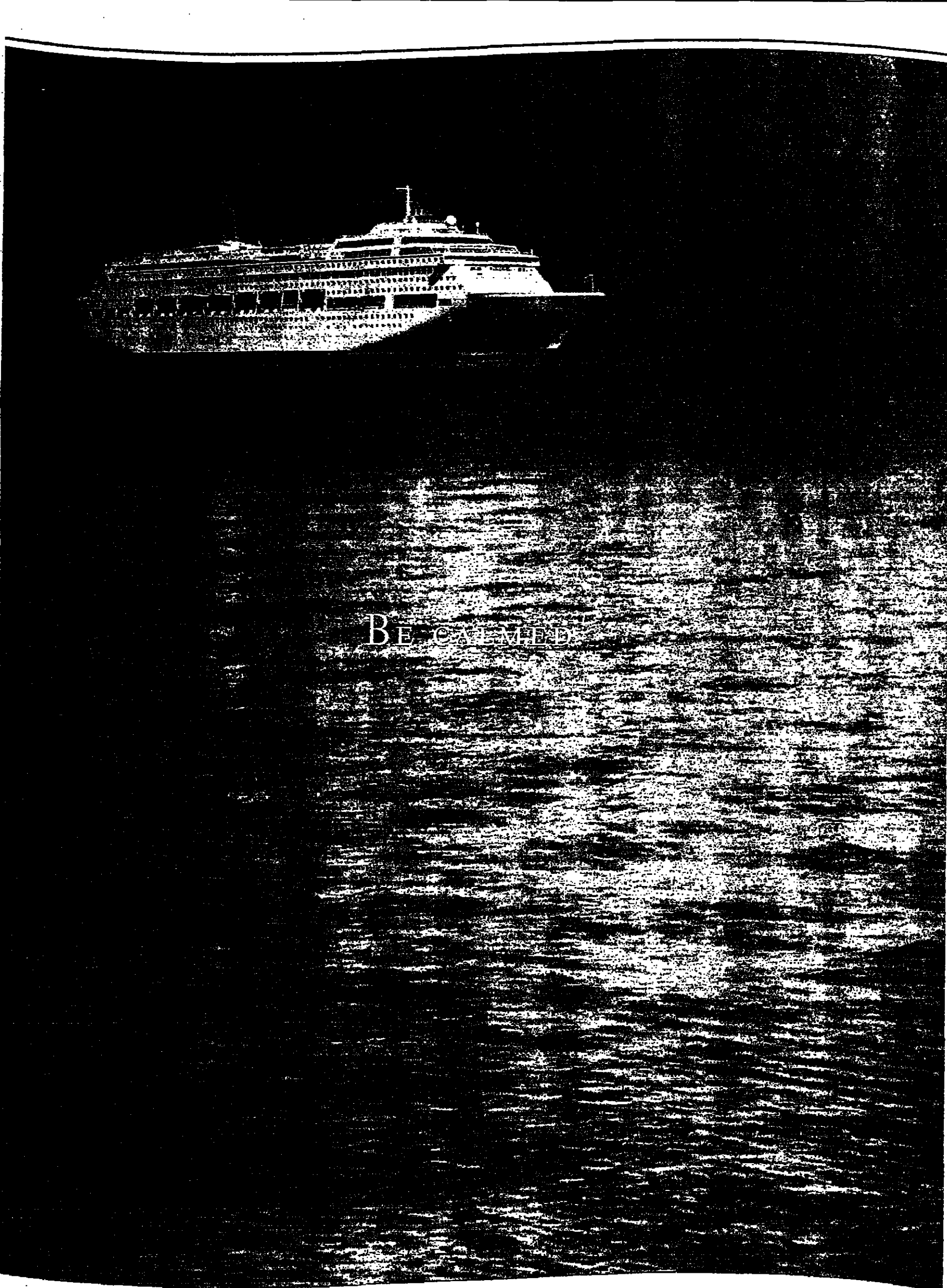
By Audrey Magee

THE IRISH tradition of hearing court cases in hotels, dance halls and schools is threatened by planning laws.

For generations, district court judges have travelled to remote hotels and halls to hold court and resolve local differences. But on Wednesday Judge Thomas Fitzpatrick struck out 250 summonses due to be heard at a hotel in Millford, Co Donegal; he was unsure if the court was valid because the hotel did not have planning permission to hear court cases.

His decision has put in doubt the validity of hundreds of district court sittings around the country. About 800 of the 276 venues used by the court for hearings are not courtrooms. Since 1988 Donegal County Council has rented the function room of the Millford hotel on the second Wednesday of every month, when the judge comes to town.

Donegal council insists planning permission is not required, but Nora Owen, the Minister for Justice, has told judges to sit in official Donegal courthouses. She has also ordered an investigation into the legality of holding court in other venues.



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Penny-pinching mentality prevented the swift rescue of stricken tanker, accident investigators say

Sea Empress insurers are blamed for oil disaster

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THE penny-pinching of insurers turned the grounding of the *Sea Empress* off the Pembrokeshire coast last year into an environmental disaster, it was claimed yesterday.

A draft report by government accident investigators is said to contain a catalogue of avoidable failures in the attempt to rescue the Liberian-registered tanker in February. They include outdated charts, poor relations between the Milford Haven Port Authority and local pilots and confusion over who was in charge.

The report, leaked to the BBC, claims that insurers refused to sanction more tugs

to pull the stricken tanker off the rocks near the oil terminals at Milford Haven in the first few days of the crisis. They believed that there was enough pulling power.

Yesterday Guy Lindley Adams of the Marine Conservation Society, who has seen the leaked draft, said that avoiding the cost of more tugs had taken precedence over avoiding pollution. "It appears that the first priority when the *Sea Empress* ran aground was finance. We should never again allow the financial liabilities to cloud the judgment of those seeking to save a stricken and heavily laden tanker."

Mr Lindley Adams said that the effect of having too few tugs was that the pulling power of the rescue operation was about 200 tonnes whereas the stricken tanker was pulling back at the equivalent of 800 tonnes. "The tanker was just pulling the tugs around."

He urged the Government to introduce the French system for handling tanker disasters. There, a government-appointed



The *Sea Empress* aground off the Pembrokeshire coast last February. The report claims that using more tugboats could have avoided the loss of almost 70,000 tonnes of oil

formidable powers, including the right to commandeer any tug, ship or navy vessel needed to avert a disaster.

The leaked draft document, by the Department of Transport's marine accident investigation branch, identifies failures that it says led to about 70,000 tonnes spilling onto the coastline, harming a wealth of wildlife. If the failures could have been averted, the *Sea Empress* might have been pulled off the rocks in two days, rather than the six days it took, with the loss

perhaps of only 2,000 tonnes of oil.

The Department of Transport and the Milford Haven Port Authority refused to comment on the document yesterday. It is understood to claim that rescue and salvage teams had five different sets of charts on the tides and depths in the estuary. This led to confusion over whether or not the vessel could be pulled off the rocks with so much oil still on board.

According to one chart, the depth in the location where the tanker was holed was 18.3

metres. Another put it at 19 metres. In reality the depth was 21 metres and the tanker could have been pulled off sooner on the rising tide. Sources who have seen the leaked document said yesterday: "Instead of liaising with local pilots, who knew the charts were crap, decisions at the port were made on the basis of these out-of-date charts."

This was confirmed yesterday by Captain Ian Evans, a former marine safety adviser in the region, who said that the

captain of a local pilot ship had told the salvage team that the *Sea Empress* could be off the rocks on the second day. Captain Evans told BBC Breakfast News: "The pilot was there advising. His advice was ignored for reasons that are beyond my understanding."

Other failures said to be listed in the report include confusion over whether the Government, in the form of the Transport Secretary, had taken control over the operation in the early days. The

report also says: "The standards of training and examination of pilots at Milford Haven are unsatisfactory and in need of improvement."

Rolf Dale of Uni Storebrand, one of the vessel's insurers in Oslo, would not comment on the allegations but said: "It is always hoped that one learns something from any accident."

The official report is due out within the next two months. Last year an interim report described how the *Sea Empress* had failed to steer clear

of the rocks in Milford Haven harbour. Although not apportioning blame, the investigators said that the captain and the pilot had not discussed or agreed on a plan for the vessel's approach.

Andrew Smith, Labour transport spokesman, said: "It is alarming that the charts for the approaches to Britain's biggest oil port are reported to be inaccurate." He called on the Government to have the accuracy of charts for other ports and busy sealanes checked urgently.



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 UNITED AIRLINES

Policeman demanded sex from prostitutes

By Paul Wilkinson

A POLICEMAN who had been a promising cricketer with hopes of playing for England was jailed yesterday for threatening prostitutes with jail unless they gave him free sex. Adil Ditta, 22, who played for the England Under-19s, lured women into his car before producing his warrant card and demanding sex. Teesside Crown Court was told.

Ditta, 22, one of the first Asian cricketers to sign for Yorkshire, which he later left for Leicester, was jailed for 18 months after he admitted indecently assaulting one woman and attempting to assault three others. He joined the police in September 1995 after he broke his arm on a cricket tour of South Africa. James Goss, for the prosecution, said Ditta had been a promising cricketer who had been offered a place in the England Under-19s team. He had been a promising cricketer who had been offered a place in the England Under-19s team.



Man held over death of Briton in Antigua

By Joanna Bale

A DISCHARGED Antiguan policeman with a history of mental illness was expected to be charged last night with the murder of a retired Lancashire headmistress in the former British colony.

Wilson Adams is accused of killing Gabrielle Stocker, 60, in an apparently motiveless attack on Wednesday on Runaway Beach, near St John's. She was allegedly hit over the head with a rock and a pole, and had her throat cut with a knife. Locals restrained her attacker until police arrived.

Mrs Stocker, from Cleveleys, near Blackpool, had been working for Voluntary Service Overseas, teaching chemistry at Antigua State College since August 1995. She retired from Fleetwood County High School in Lancashire in 1994.

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World population growth slumps for first time in decades

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

WORLD population growth is slowing for the first time, excluding the Black Death and the flu epidemic at the end of the Great War, Bill Gould, of Liverpool University told the Geographers' Conference.

The number of children born has been falling, a trend that now includes all African countries for the first time, he said. While fertility rates remain well above replacement level and the African population continues to grow at 2 to 3 per cent a year, the figures represent a revolutionary change, he said.

The last estimate of world population — six years ago — stood at 5.6 billion. Subsequent censuses, none done later than two years ago, showed little evidence of the slowdown. China, with 1.2 billion people, still tops the league.

The reported fall would

appear to disprove the thesis that childbearing only declines after economic conditions improve, as happened in Europe. In Africa, conditions are not improving but fertility is falling — this is a "crisis-led" transition, he said. "When people feel the pinch, they choose to have smaller families, and now they have the means," Professor Gould said.

The change had been made possible by the greater availability of contraceptives; more family planning centres; better education of girls and women; and a growing recognition that children cost money. The biggest declines had been a result of government programmes, he said, citing Bangladesh, population 118.7 million, a very poor country where fertility has fallen from seven children per woman in 1970 to about four in

1993. "That is a bit of a miracle" said Professor Gould, "the result of a vigorous government programme of education and provision of mother-and-child health programmes."

Equally rapid falls have been recorded in China, Indonesia (191.3 million), Brazil (159.1 million) and Asia (3.4 billion). East Asia has shown the steepest falls, with fertility now between two and three children per woman.

In Africa, Kenya (26.4 million) and Zimbabwe (11.5 million) have had the most pronounced results, thanks to political commitment. However, fertility in Nigeria (93.3 million) has remained static at 6.4 children per woman.

If fertility continues to decline at these rates, world population will eventually stabilise without a Malthusian crash, he believes.



The 1348 Black Death, depicted by R. Cabon Woodville in 1910, which affected world population figures

Mobile phones go global via satellite link

By NICK NUTTALL

MOBILE phone users should soon be able to make calls anywhere in the world with the launch today of the first of 66 satellites forming a new communications network.

On board the Delta rocket, which blasts off from California, will be three small spacecraft which will be part of the Iridium network spanning the

globe. When the full network is in place early next year, callers should be able to ring, page or fax home from a mountain-top in the Andes or a tramp steamer on the Yangtze River.

The system has been developed by Motorola, the international electronics firm, with backing from Lockheed Martin Corporation and the Khronichev State Research Space Center in Moscow. The market is thought

to be worth billions of pounds. Potential users include businessmen, travellers, journalists, and relief agencies.

Iridium works by using a large number of small satellites in a comparatively low orbit of around 750km (470 miles). Conventional satellites which beam television pictures fly as high as 35,000km (22,000 miles) and reaching them requires power beyond existing mobile phones. Iridium requires less

power and the number of satellites means that one should be overhead at any given time.

The call is transmitted to the nearest Iridium satellite, which relays until a satellite is found above the call's final destination. Here the signal is beamed down to the cellular phone or traditional land-line. The phones are expected to cost around \$3,000 (£1,775) and calls around \$3 (£1.78) a minute.

Quiet faith defeats cynics and snipers

Richard Whitfield



Religious faith, personal belief and integrity are put to the test in the harsher detail of our evolving life stories. Human storylines are, and have always been, the keys to opening up theology.

I define theology as the reflective study of the God of light and of beauty within and with us, but also of the dark and evil in our nature, sometimes referred to as the anti-God or anti-Christ.

We have recently been reminded yet again of the first phase of the Christ story, announced as good news with the birth of a Saviour. God with us in human form, a perfect love to cast out fear. Soon, Herod launched a futile cull of newborns in response. The anti-God is close by whenever the vulnerable, including children and prophets who will not shut up, are assassinated.

Assassination takes many forms in our era — in terrorism, in ethnic torture and bloodshed, in random shootings by the deranged and unloved, as in Hungerford, Tasmania and Dunblane, in the murder of modern saints such as Martin Luther King, Archbishop of Luwum and Philip Lawrence, and in the tragic self-assassinations of despairing suicide.

There is also character assassination with malicious intent sometimes disguised with thinly veiled public humour. Anyone even marginally in the public eye can be unfairly gamed in that arena, especially if they stand for anything remotely challenging, or if they are a high ground can bring in the excavators to investigate below ground, looking for traces of imperfection or disloyalty.

The aim is to undermine credibility and to silence or ridicule what might be a modicum of courage or some uncomfortable truth.

Such truth may, of course, have become highlighted through its advocate's own moral struggles as much as their endowed piety.

Those of us engaged in moral debate need to have the courage to sustain peace during such attacks, because of the need for moral resolution in addressing our world's avoidable pain. Enhanced scholarly and scientific insights concerning the human condition are rarely ethically neutral. Knowledge of ourselves as psycho-social beings has moral consequences, even though it is commonplace to ignore them.

Our God in Christ knew about forms of in-life destructiveness. He experienced the trick questions, betrayal by an insider, and eventually a mock trial and a crown of thorns. Yet He said: "I will not be ashamed of them, for they are mine."

He then became the target on his way to the psychic shadows of the sun. God within the cowardly professional religious, the crowd and the civic jurisdiction could be protected.

In God's close embrace, when we are in our darkest moments, we are not alone.

fairly judged and distorted out of context? The testimony of the prophets, saints and mystics is that persecution, whether large or small, can be a growth point for spirituality, a deepening of faith, a consolidation of identity and a strengthening of integrity.

It seems that there is nothing more motivating than others' beastliness to prompt a new examination of one's own shadow. In that dark side, of which Jung wrote so profoundly, lurk fears of personal insolvency and the rage of the clamouring ego which displaces the soul and its untapped connections with others.

The wronged ego wishes to complain, to fight back, to justify, even to litigate. The morning soul waits upon God's reassurance through grace that all is well concerning the invisible. The soul can be reassured by injunctions such as "To thine own (soul) self be true". There is no profit in gaining the whole world if you lose your own soul and "There, but for God's grace, go I".

Malevolence and ill report are spiritually far more serious for the doer than the receiver. Patient receivers of ill intent discover that the God of the Covenant does not stay aloof when the ego is wounded. The Christ brings light to all things, having shared the wounds in all things.

So the ego's pain is displaced as grace and greater truth come riding on the back of misfortune. The result is an inner peace and soul security, a gift we can all claim if we hold fast to that which is good.

Professor Richard Whitfield is Warden of St George's House, Windsor Castle.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 13

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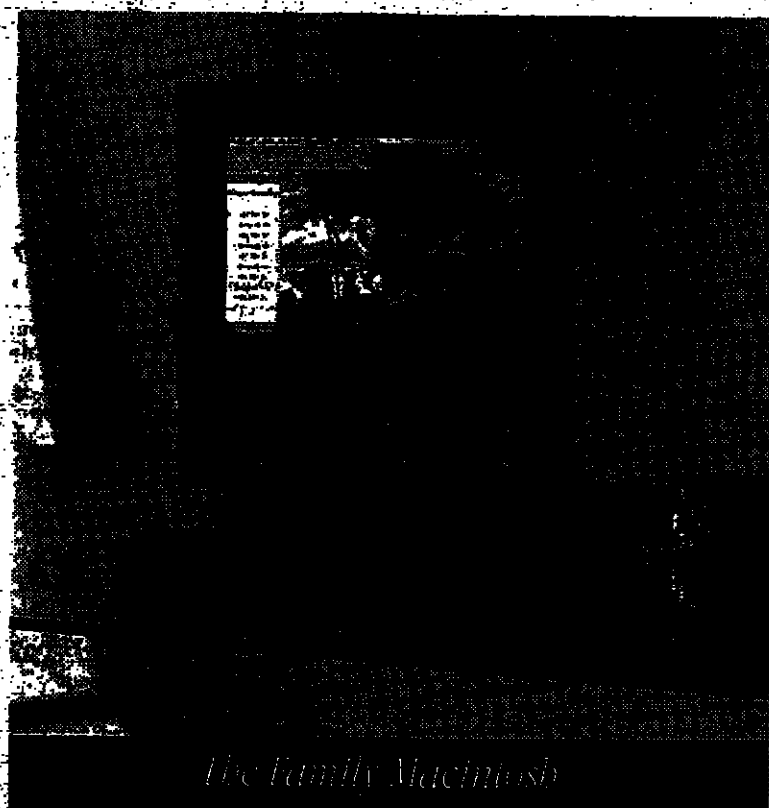
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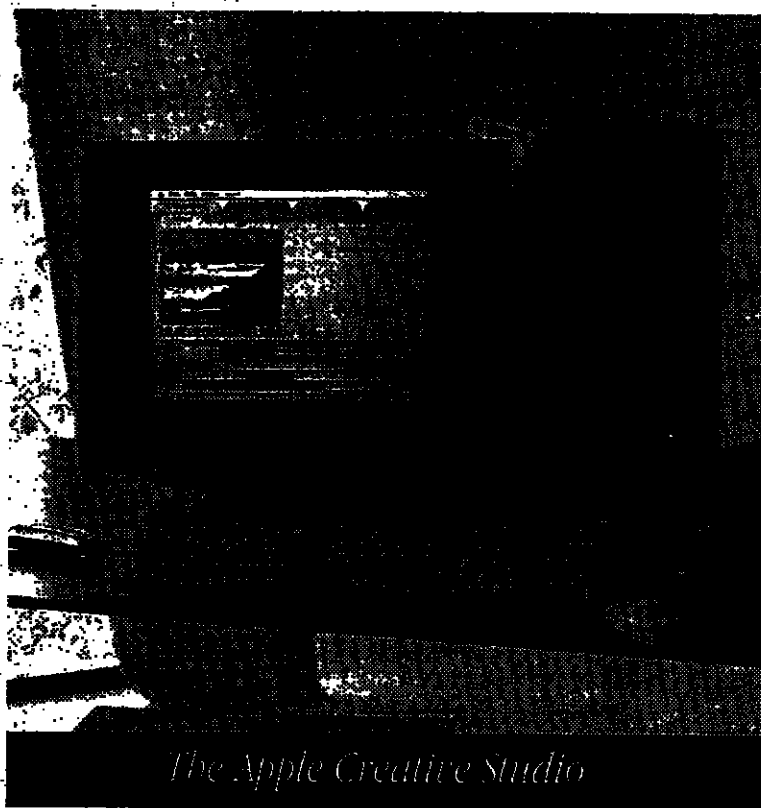
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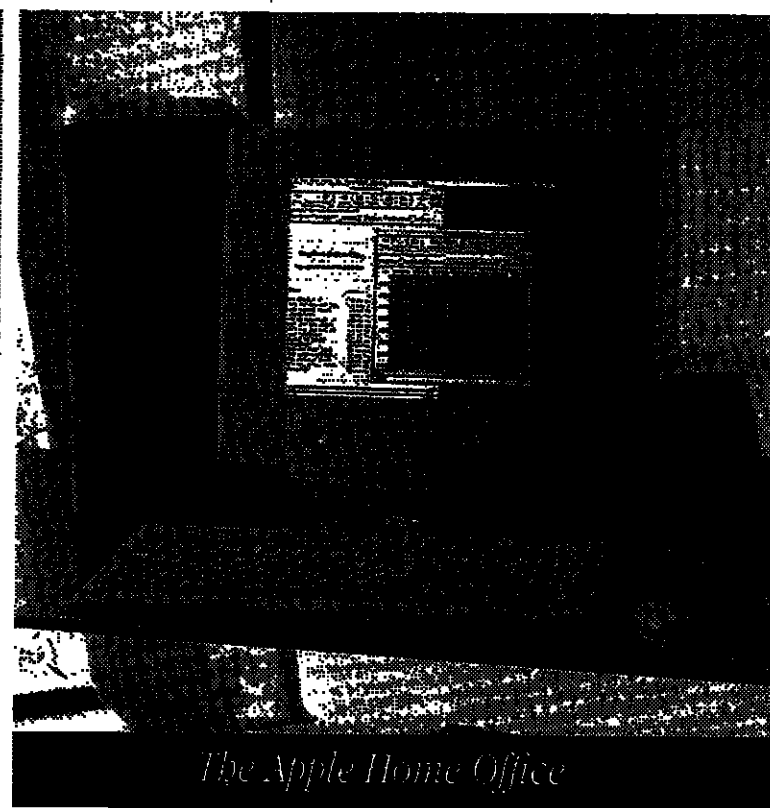
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Ebbing Benidorm establishes a beachhead in Wales

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN MADRID

THE shivering citizens of Cardiff and Belfast will soon receive a party of visitors from friendlier climes, bearing tales of pubs well stocked with barrels of lager, sizzling fish and chips and curry — all to be wolfed down under the scorching sun, on golden beaches, to the gentle music of the Mediterranean.

Starting on Tuesday, the "Benidorm Roadshow" will trundle cheerfully for three days through Wales and Northern Ireland. Led by the town's mayor, Vicente Pérez Devesa, and consisting of a number of Benidorm's town councillors, the roadshow will aim to sell the charms of the much-maligned Costa Blanca resort to the as yet unconverted Welsh and Ulsterfolk.

Tourists to Benidorm have so far tended to come from Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, Glasgow and London, and the council is keen to attract people from other areas. There was an 11 per cent fall in the number of British tourists to Spain in 1996 — although the fall for Benidorm was only 3 per



The beach at Benidorm on the Costa Blanca. Although it is the summer destination for more than a million Britons, there were 3 per cent fewer British tourists last year

cent — and the Mayor is determined to arrest the decline with a "top-up" from Cardiff and Belfast.

"We want British visitors to keep coming to us," Señor Pérez said. "They love our facilities, our weather and

the way of life we have. They feel totally at home with us and we appreciate their presence very much."

Of the four million tourists pouring into Benidorm last year on streams of charter flights, just over a million

were Britons in search of sun, sand and a good time. The place, once a somnolent fishing village of some 3,000 souls, now boasts a skyline which the Michelin Tourist Handbook describes as "an authentic Manhattan of the

Mediterranean". Pubs, bars and chip shops vie with esplanades selling tourist tat, T-shirts and caricature postcards. Visitors used to Cannes may balk at the general tone of the resort, but the millions who do go appear to

be in a state of cat-price bliss. At least half of the annual tourist influx is Spanish, clearly unfazed by the spectacle of a mini Manchester-on-sea.

"Look, let's be fair," says Montse Gasco, the press

chief of Benidorm council. "I know we have been criticised for being *hortera* [Spanish slang for tacky or naff] but not everyone can afford to go to the Côte d'Azur. You must not be elitist. Most people in Britain

and Spain are just normal folk and Benidorm is a normal place with very normal prices. It is a democratic holiday destination for a democratic age. 'Come to democratic Benidorm' will be our roadshow's message."

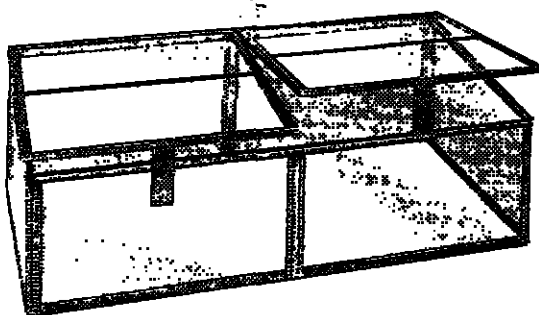
Benidorm's Mayor will press the flesh on the streets of Cardiff and Belfast, distributing information to those willing to take it. Señor Gasco says: "We have many attractions in Benidorm, which the people of Wales and Northern Ireland should appreciate. Apart from our pubs and our beautiful beaches, we have Aqualand, the most important aquatic park in Europe, and Mundomar, a marine theme park. And since the countryside is flat and unattractive, our British visitors can go for long walks."

As if that were not inducement enough, the Mayor will tell people in Cardiff about the Benidorm Sevens, an international rugby tournament to be held in May. There is also an international marathon next November, although he may need more than a mere roadshow to get any takers from among the horizontal Brits on holiday.

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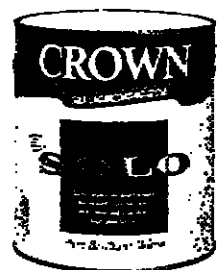
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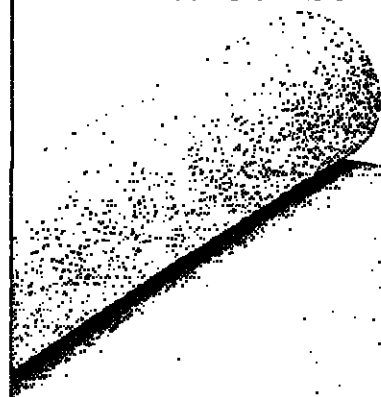
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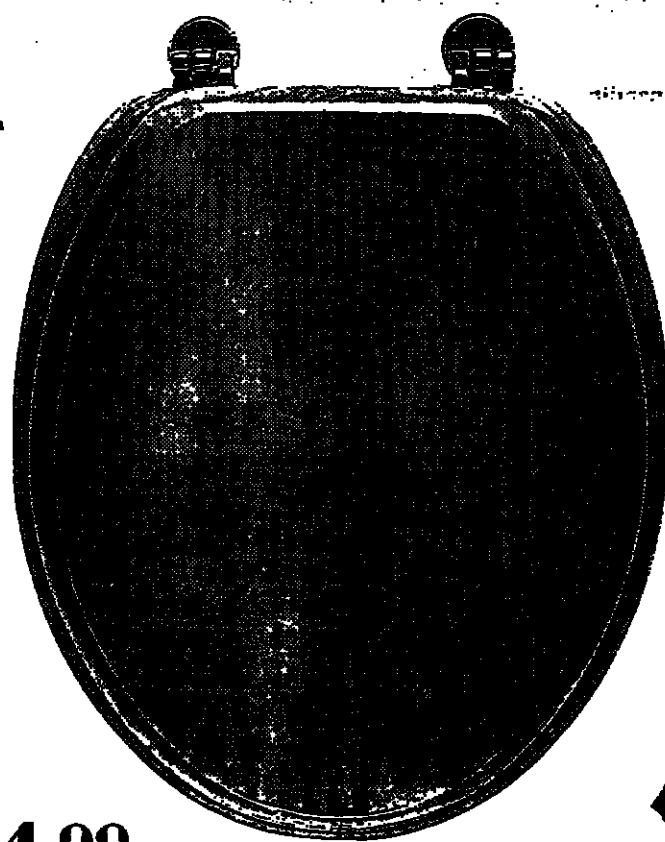
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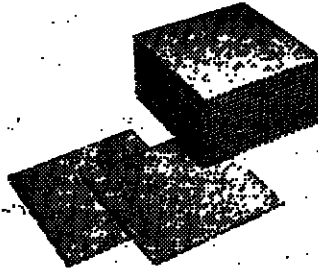
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Times readers give £60,000 to help charities

By DANIEL MCGROCKY

THE generosity of readers who responded to *The Times* Christmas appeals will make a huge difference to crucial work this year of the two charities concerned, the Evelina Children's Hospital and Tusk Force. Donations of nearly £60,000 have already been counted, and there is much more still to open.

The charities were chosen because they work with helpless victims — sick children and threatened species — and they need every penny to survive and to thrive. Both are small, precision groups whose work can be measured and confirmed.

Tusk Force says it has received more than £25,000 to protect "endangered mammals". Your donations of nearly £30,000 to the Evelina Appeal will help in the pioneering work with children who come to the hospital suffering from severe neurological and heart disorders which need intensive specialist treatment.

The Evelina Children's Hospital, which is the paediatric unit for Guy's Hospital in London, is delighted with the donations, but its need for money remains acute to help more children like Caroline Morris, 15, who was treated there when her kidneys deteriorated and a transplant failed. Caroline's grandparents provided some £8,000 to buy a portable dialysis machine, known to the family as Dillian, with which she is able to stay with friends and go to parties.

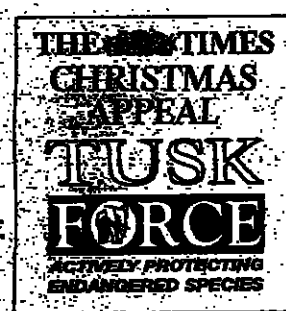
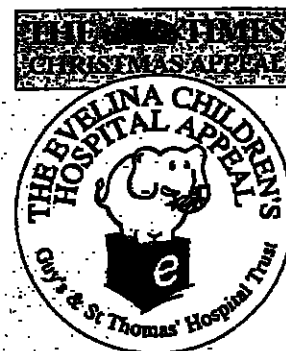
Her mother, Penny Morris, lost no time in mounting her own campaign to raise money for more machines to be donated to the Evelina Appeal for families who cannot afford to buy their own. The cost of transforming a young person's life is a formidable one, however, and the Evelina Appeal remains permanently open.

Tusk Force was yesterday deciding ways to spend the money. Tammy Marler, the head of fundraising, said: "We think it appropriate that we should help to fund projects to protect the endangered British native mammals like the red squirrel, the vole, dormouse and wildcat."

Money will also be spent on educational projects. Tusk Force's international projects and its anti-poaching teams guarding the Siberian tiger, elephants and bears.

Cheques or postal orders for Tusk Force should be made payable to Tusk Force and sent to PO Box 290, Wetherby, Yorks LS23 7XL. To make an instant credit card donation, or for information, phone 0345 414616.

Cheques or postal orders for the Evelina Appeal should be made payable to The Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal and sent to The Evelina Appeals Office, Henriette Raphael House, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas Street, SE1 9RT. For credit card donation, phone 0171 403 4089.



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'Sacking' scandal hits Hong Kong

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A POLITICAL scandal rocked the hothouse world of Hong Kong politics yesterday when Lawrence Leung, the retired immigration director, said he had been dismissed — contradicting repeated government statements that he sought retirement for "personal reasons".

The credibility of the Hong Kong Government is now in doubt in what has become a controversial case that appeared central to the integrity of the Hong Kong-China relationship.

In surprise evidence to the Legislative Council, where he appeared under a subpoena, Mr Leung admitted that within hours of the threat to dismiss him he had met Peking's second highest-ranking official in the colony.

Mr Leung gave evidence for four hours yesterday to a Legislative Council select committee formed to investigate allegations that he had given confidential material on immigration and caused foreign governments to doubt the reliability of Hong Kong

residence papers. W.K. Lam, who as Civil Service Secretary heads the civil service, conceded last night at a press conference that he had not told the council that he had considered compulsory retirement for Mr Leung, but he declined to say why. He refused repeatedly to confirm or deny that Chris Patten, the Governor, had been told that Mr Leung, a senior official, was facing disgrace.

Mr Leung said that on July 5 he had been summoned to Mr Lam's office and told he must either retire by 5pm or face compulsory retirement after 31 years of service. Mr Leung said that when he asked why, Mr Lam told him: "You know why... The Government no longer trusts you."

Asked by council members why he had not demanded to see his superiors or lodged an appeal, Mr Leung said: "I knew that for a man of my seniority, dismissal would have to be approved at the highest level, including the Governor or even the UK." He then wrote his retirement let-

ter. As he gave evidence yesterday, Cheung Man-kwong, a council member, entered the chamber and said he had just been told "by a member of the public" that on the day of his retirement Mr Leung had been seen with Chen Zuo'er, China's envoy to the ambassadorial-level Joint Liaison Group conducting negotiations on Hong Kong's transition to Chinese rule.

Mr Leung then agreed: "I made the appointment with him after I decided to retire." He then changed his statement, saying the meeting was "pre-arranged".

Mr Leung said he had undergone a six-month investigation by the Independent Commission against Corruption, and had been cleared.

The conflict of evidence under oath is a vast embarrassment for the Government. Perjury carries a prison sentence of up to seven years. Mr Patten has said that he had never known any reason why Mr Leung should leave his post.



A drawing in France-Soir depicts the teacher stripped to his socks

French pupils learn the bare essentials

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

BERNARD DEFANCE, a French philosophy teacher, claimed he was expanding his students' minds and laying bare the essence of democracy when he stripped naked in front of a mixed high-school class.

The authorities in the town of Meaux, east of Paris, thought differently, and last week he was temporarily stripped of his job, sparking an intellectual debate over the line between philosophy and exhibitionism.

The revealing class took place at Pierre de Coubertin High School, when the 51-year-old teacher told his teenage students he would remove one item of clothing, starting with his bowtie, for every philosophical riddle he could not answer. M Defrance may have taught his pupils too well, for by the end of the class he was left standing in nothing but his socks.

The author of many philosophical works, he insisted that his unorthodox teaching methods were an illustration of the workings of democracy. "The point of democracy is to discover that the emperor has no clothes, and that authority is only exercised by the permission of the citizens, who make the laws together," he said.

"It is the mission of schools," he said, "to allow students to experience their liberty in real terms, and not just in the imagination."

Some students applauded the technique. "There was nothing sexual

about it. He was showing that he was just like us," one said.

The parents of another pupil filed a complaint with the police. School administrators, after pondering M Defrance's arguments for several weeks, voted to suspend him for four months pending an inquiry. "There is a limit beyond which philosophical provocation becomes unacceptable," said Guy Colssard, academic inspector for the Seine-et-Marne region.

In a country that regards philosophy as central to education, the case has sparked debate. The conservative *Le Figaro* considered M Defrance's self-revelation "a strange way to teach", while the left-leaning *Le Monde* quoted Hegel and noted: "From Bernard Defrance's teaching, these adolescents may learn to discover who they are, to understand that obedience to the law is very different from submitting to someone."

Several of the teacher's colleagues have leapt to his defence. "This is a brilliant man," declared Laurent Brisset of the French teacher's union. "It's important that there is someone to say these sorts of things."

M Defrance remains unrepentant. "I want to deconstruct the idea of pupils' submission, before the teacher and the institution, to instill an idea of equality... that way I will make students interested in philosophy, while also making them respect me."



Hope rises in Angola as Princess arrives

BY MICHAEL BRYNOR
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A FLURRY of diplomatic activity has raised hopes of a peace settlement in Angola just as Diana, Princess of Wales, is about to visit the country to lend support to mine-clearing operations.

She will fly to Luanda to back a Red Cross campaign against anti-personnel mines. After two decades of civil war, an estimated nine million mines lie scattered around the country, about one for every man, woman and child. Angola has one of the world's highest injury rates from mines, with about 24 people a day being admitted to hospital, and thousands of amputees.

During her five-day visit the Princess will visit a Red Cross factory making artificial limbs, health centres and hospitals caring for the victims of the war.

She arrives on Monday, soon after the departure of Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, who had talks with President dos Santos and Angolan Government leaders, as well as with officials from Unita, the rebel group that signed the 1994 Lusaka ceasefire agreement.

Korean striker sets fire to himself

Seoul: A car worker on strike set fire to himself yesterday to protest against South Korea's stringent new trade union law as thousands of workers clashed violently with police.

The apparent suicide attempt by Chung Jae-sung, a painter at Hyundai Motors in Ulsan, 185 miles southeast of Seoul, could provoke more protests. Mr Chung, 33, suffered burns to 30 per cent of his body, but his condition was said by doctors not to be serious. Witnesses said he doused himself with "something inflammable" and set it alight during a violent clash with riot police.

The trigger was among about 23,000 workers from several Hyundai factories marching through the city centre after a rally protesting against the new law, which they fear threatens their jobs. The legislation, passed on December 26, gives management greater freedom to lay off employees, lengthen working hours and hire substitutes. Police fired teargas, leading to violent clashes, the Yonhap news agency said. Workers fought back, throwing stones and small rocks. About 20 workers and police were injured, the agency said. (AP)

Leading article, page 23

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'Pale faces' outburst by reporters mars slum tour as Marxist city rolls out the red carpet

Passage to India cheers Major in election year

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

JOHN MAJOR has been treated to prodigious and generally glowing coverage in the Indian press during his Indian tour, although one outraged journalist said yesterday: "A lingering problem with most Englishmen is that they still feel they have the right to rule us."

The reporter, writing in *The Pioneer*, said that "one of us natives" shouted at Mr Major,

asking why Indian correspondents had been kept out. The Prime Minister "smiled benignly" and said to have answered: "But I am talking to you now." *The Times of India* was similarly aggrieved, declaring that Indian journalists were "herded behind a ramshackle bamboo fence".

The chattering classes, it said, had sniggered at Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal, over his enthusiastic welcome. The paper carried a

front-page cartoon showing Mr Basu on his knees to Mr Major.

In a leader headlined "Passage to India", *The Times of India* praised the Conservatives' approach to India while lambasting Labour's. It accused the Labour Government at the time of partition in 1947 of creating the Kashmir problem. Harold Wilson, the former Prime Minister, had sided with Pakistan in the 1965 cross-border war.

An article in *The Hindustan Times* suggested that India should be concerned about Mr Major's possible defeat in this year's general election. It praised the Conservatives' approach to Kashmir, comparing it favourably with what it called the Labour Party's encouragement of lobbyists to determine whether Kashmir should remain part of India.

A Calcutta resident wrote to the editor of *The Statesman* saying it was time to stop fighting the Battle of Plassey (the scene of Robert Clive's victory in Bengal in 1757). "Not a day passes when we do not come across shrill anti-British rhetoric by our leaders, who find in the East India Company and the British Empire a useful scapegoat to cover up their own follies."

The Telegraph of Calcutta gave breathless coverage to Mr Major's visit beneath the headline "Major strikes right chord, holds the city in thrall". A sub-heading added: "He came, he saw, he conquered."

It reported that Norma Major was a hit many shrewd dwellers had been impressed by the "mensahib". A front-page article said: "There was cricket fever, film fever, football fever and now there is a Major fever." It noted that this was the first visit to Calcutta by a serving British Prime Minister.

Last night Mr Major flew into Dhaka to talk with the Bangladesh Prime Minister.



John Major and his wife Norma at the Victoria Memorial in Calcutta yesterday

Battle joined over 'loan' of Governor Hastings portrait

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER IN BANGALORE

THE British and Indian authorities are at odds over the ownership of a valuable 18th-century oil painting. It emerged here yesterday.

Diplomacy forbade the strange case of the missing portrait being mentioned in Calcutta yesterday when the Prime Minister and Norma Major visited the Victoria Memorial Hall with its myriad relics of Britain's imperial history. But, behind the scenes, a battle is under way over Britain's refusal to hand back a 250-year-old picture by Lemuel Abbot of Warren Hastings, British India's first Governor-General.

Lord Curzon, a former viceroy, brought the painting to the memorial hall from the National Portrait Gallery in 1920. There it stayed for decades, but in 1987 the state-run hall lent it to Britain for two years to hang in the official residence of the High Commissioner in Delhi.

Now British officials are refusing to return it on the grounds that it belongs to the United Kingdom. Mr Major was told of the dispute yesterday by Sir David Gore-Booth, the High Commissioner. Sir David was quoted in *The Telegraph of Calcutta* as saying: "True, there was an agreement on it, but the question that has now arisen is who owns the painting. Negotiations are on with the memorial authorities."

Those authorities, however, say that the negotiations are merely about the painting's return. Amid hints of court action by the hall authorities to get it back, the National Portrait Gallery has inter-

vened to say that the work was not given but lent. The dispute was kept well under wraps as Mr Major toured the hall yesterday, looking at exhibits such as a statue of Queen Victoria and a large painting of the young Edward VII riding into Delhi on an elephant.

Yesterday Mr Major had some news about how Britain intends to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Indian independence this year. There will be a visit of the Royal Shakespeare Company to several Indian cities and an exhibition in Delhi and Bombay of 150 world treasures from the unrivalled collections of the British Museum. But they are to be returned.



Hastings: icon of 250 years of imperial rule

Upwardly mobile phone partners

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Prime Minister hailed the success of BT yesterday after it won a £60 million, toehold in the swiftly growing Indian mobile phone market.

Sir Iain Vallance, Chairman of BT, who is among the businessmen travelling with Mr Major on his tour of the sub-continent, flew to Delhi yesterday to complete the deal. Under it, BT will acquire a 22.5 per cent stake in Bharti Cellular by taking over a subsidiary of the French CGE Group, one of four partners in the consortium.

Bharti has more than 65,000 subscribers, a rapidly expanding base, and Sir Iain said last night that India had become a key market for BT. It was the biggest deal announced so far on Mr Major's six-day trip and he used the news to spread the privatisation message. Since it was privatised, BT had invested more heavily

in Britain and across the world and as a result there was a "long stream of future earnings". He said Britain was now the second largest overseas investor in the world.

Mr Major had lengthy talks yesterday with H.D. Deve Gowda, the Indian Prime Minister, both in Calcutta and as they flew together to Bangalore. Mr Major again urged the Indian Government to buy British Hawk jets to replace their ageing military aircraft and raised the plight of the two Britons still held by militants in Kashmir.

Mr Major was garlanded when he went to the headquarters of Standard Chartered, the bank for which he once worked, to inaugurate its credit card centre. He was given a gold card with his photograph on it, and remarked that he had not been told his credit limit.

TV saga heralds Deng demise

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

A TWELVE-PART television series on Deng Xiaoping, 92, Peking's senior leader, ends tomorrow, prompting some Chinese to believe that the eulogy is designed to prepare the 1.2 billion population for his impending demise.

Mr Deng, the architect of

China's economic reforms, was reportedly taken seriously ill at the new year. The series was screened from January 1.

"It may be a signal to us that Deng's days are drawing to a close," a woman teacher said. A lawyer in his thirties said: "Deng's image had been declining... he is no longer a threat to those who will succeed him." A foreign analyst

said there "may have been some political purpose in showing it now. The leadership needs a smooth transition."

The party under President Jiang Zemin, Mr Deng's heir apparent, will have to manage the post-Deng era, deal with Hong Kong, reverting to Chinese rule in July, and face a key October congress.

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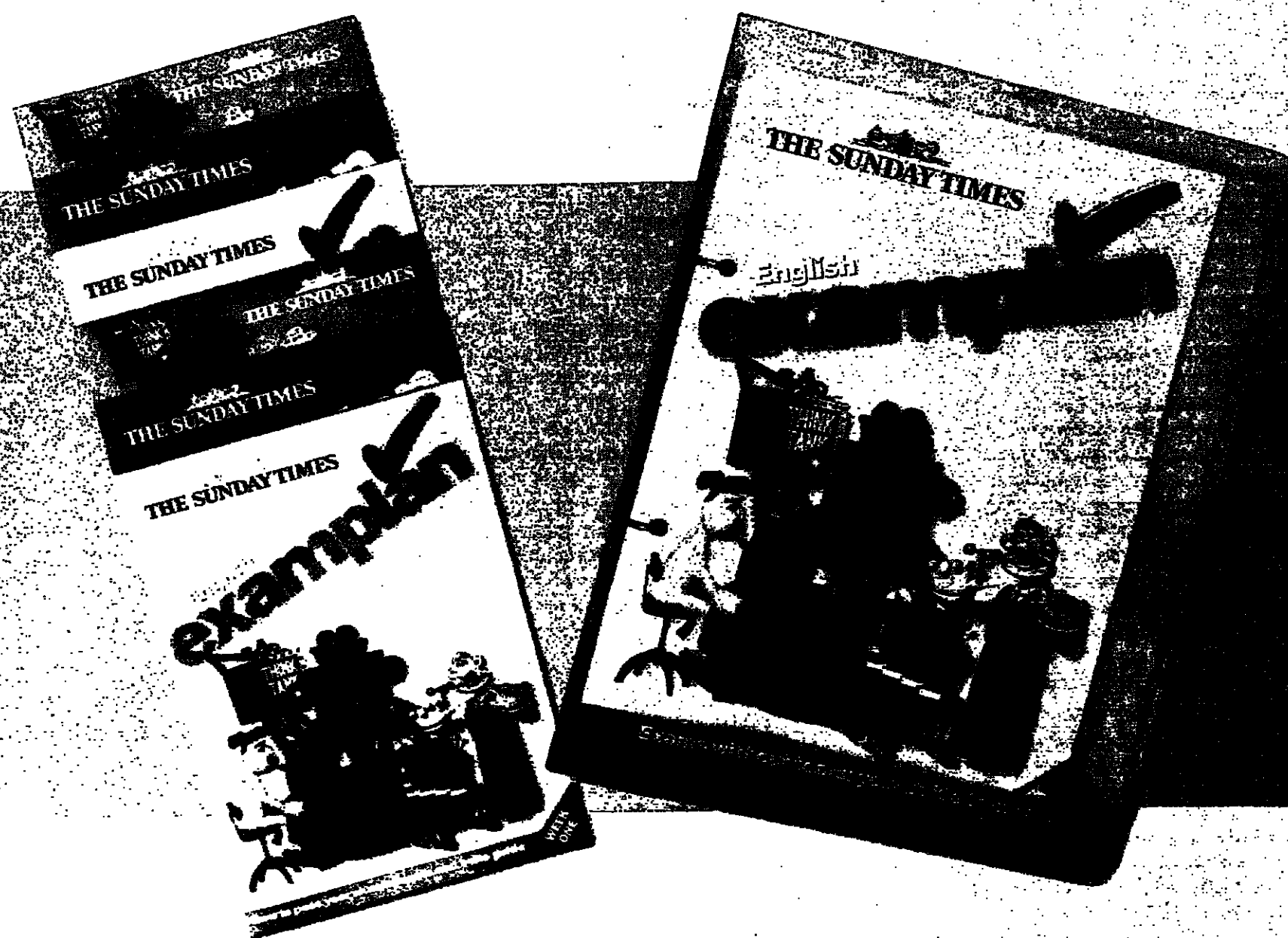
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Girl's killing stuns Americans

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK



JonBenet Ramsey: precocious performer with talent for pleasing on stage

THE murder of a six-year-old beauty queen in Colorado has put the gaudy world of children's glamour pageants under scrutiny in America.

JonBenet Ramsey, daughter of prosperous parents in Boulder, Colorado, was found dead in the cellar of her family home on December 26. She had been sexually assaulted, strangled on the head, bound and gagged, and pathologists estimated that the crime was committed the previous evening — hours after an excited JonBenet had opened her Christmas presents.

JonBenet was a precocious little girl who regularly won prizes in local and national junior beauty contests. She was America's Little Royal Miss of 1996, and appeared to be a natural on stage where, at the urging of adults, she would wiggle her slim hips, wink her unnaturally luxuriant eyelashes and pout her painted lips.

Police are treading carefully, partly owing to the devastating nature of the case, but also because the killing has attracted reporters from around the world to peaceful Boulder. It was the mountain city's first killing of 1996, and law enforcers are anxious that no mistakes are made. Equally cautious, the dead girl's parents have hired individual lawyers for themselves and are granting limited assistance to investigators. JonBenet's father is John Bennett Ramsey, a prominent Boulder

businessman and former US Navy pilot. The girl's name was a purposeful derivation of his. Her mother, Patricia, is herself a former beauty queen who had worked hard to coach her young daughter in the ways of beauty contests.

Children's beauty pageants are a flourishing subculture in provincial America, with parents often spending thousands of dollars to push forward their offspring. Youngsters are clothed and painted to resemble grown-ups, and children as young as two are encouraged to adopt provocative poses. The constant aim is to conquer that most natural of young states:



Patsy Ramsey was Miss West Virginia in 1977

shyness. For the parents there is the pleasure, say some critics, of living their lives through their children.

The mystery of JonBenet's death deepened this week with disclosures that a truncated emergency call to the police was made from the Ramsey home a few days before Christmas. The call was interrupted before any words were spoken, but the family has claimed that it was made by a drunken reveller at the Ramseys' Christmas party.

Police also discovered in the house a rough draft of an apparent hostage note.

The Ramseys' home is large and well-appointed, recently improved by \$700,000 (£410,000) of building work which was done by numerous contractors. Many of them will have met JonBenet and may have had access to the windowless cellar where she was to be found dead — and where, only hours earlier, Mr and Mrs Ramsey had hidden the Christmas presents they had bought for JonBenet and her brother Burke, nine.

The Ramseys have offered a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the "killer on the loose" they claim is roaming Boulder, but city authorities deny that there is such a person at large. Mr Ramsey, well-spoken and a pillar of the community, has pronounced himself "nauseated beyond belief" at subtle intimations that he or his wife may somehow be linked to the death of JonBenet.



JonBenet posing with her brother Burke

Ex-aide says he ran US for Clinton

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

ACCORDING to Dick Morris, he wrote President Clinton's State of the Union address, told him where to take his holidays and steered him in making the world a safer place.

The now-disgraced White House adviser, who resigned in August after it was revealed he allowed a prostitute to listen to his conversations with the President, has published a idiosyncratic portrait of the workings of the White House which puts the author at centre stage.

Mr Morris is credited with helping Mr Clinton to rehabilitate himself after the first two, hazard-prone years of the presidency and the Republican landslide in the 1994 congressional elections. Although he had been exiled from the White House by the time of the November elec-

tions, the campaign strategy bore clear signs of his touch. But critics dispute his influence was as pervasive as he claims.

At the start of *Behind the Oval Office: Winning the Presidency in the Nineties*, to be published on Wednesday but widely trailed this week, Mr Morris apologises to his wife, who is seeking a divorce, and to others for his ego. "Having won a struggle with the White House to help the President get back on course, I felt omnipotent," he says. There is little sign in his account that this feeling has diminished.

He quotes Richard Holbrooke, America's forceful Bosnia negotiator, as telling him that without his help "I would never have been able to get it done". The *Washington Post*, which reviewed an early

copy, comments: "Morris takes credit for just about everything except tracking down the Unabomber".

Despite the inescapability of Mr Morris's ego in the text, he offers insights into the Clinton image machine. Among many



Morris admits that he did feel omnipotent

other small touches, he advised the President to take "regular-guy" holidays camping or hiking with his family. Mr Morris played a big part in wearing Mr Clinton away from the Hollywood friends who had been such a feature of the early years of the presidency, but who were thought to add an unwholesome, untrustworthy element to the White House image in the eyes of Middle America.

Mr Morris is entertaining, if not newsworthy, on the President's tantrums. He describes Mr Clinton screaming that Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate, was an "evil, evil man". He derisively referred to his staff whom he picked for their youth and freshness, as "the children who got me elected".

To Mr Morris himself, the *Post* reports, the President

screamed: "I will do this race alone, alone, alone if I have to", ordering aides not to leak his policies to earn themselves credit with journalists.

Mr Morris has done his best to disavow that order, and has reportedly been paid a multimillion dollar advance by Random House for doing so. But the snuffy reaction of the *Post*, diligent supplier of the main market for Mr Morris's work, suggests he has failed to glean much credit. "There are no smoking guns here", the paper concludes.

Gingrich 'plot' caught on tape

BY BRONWEN MADDOX

A SECRET tape recording of a conversation between Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Republican leaders, which emerged yesterday, suggested that he may have breached a promise to the committee investigating him for ethical misconduct not to use his office to counterattack its findings.

Disclosure of the tape adds fuel to speculation among Republicans and Democrats that Mr Gingrich, who was narrowly re-elected this week, may not see out his two-year

term. The House is due to vote on January 21 on Mr Gingrich's punishment.

The tape was made in Florida by people who overheard on a police scanner a cellular telephone call between Mr Gingrich and other House leaders. It was passed to *The New York Times*, which described the tape's owners as "people unsympathetic to Mr Gingrich".

The Speaker's promise to the committee on December 21 was part of a pact to spare him a full-scale public trial. The committee is investigat-

ing whether Mr Gingrich misused tax-exempt charitable donations for political purposes. He has admitted giving misleading information to the House and failing to get proper legal advice about the use of tax-exempt funds.

But on the same day as striking this agreement, according to the tape, Mr Gingrich held a telephone conference call in which he sketched out a damage-control statement for Republican leaders to deliver in response to the committee's findings.

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Disciplined line for Euro bank pleases Germany

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPE'S future central bank yesterday laid down a tough German-style approach to ensuring the purity of the single currency, setting the scene for further tension between Bonn and its partners over the implications of fostering a rock-hard euro.

The European Monetary Institute (EMI), which will become the European Central Bank, steward of the future euro, claimed yesterday at a Frankfurt press conference that its policy machinery would ensure the currency was at least as stable as the German mark.

The Germans were well satisfied with the report by the EMI, although it leaves open several key decisions. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, said the blueprint demonstrated that "price stability and solid finances are the unavoidable pillars of a successful monetary union". Fighting inflation is the top task for the bank under the Maastricht treaty, but conflict has been growing between Bonn and Paris over what France sees as the risk that the independent bank will pursue monetary strength with the single-minded zeal of the Bundesbank, now dictating Europe's interest rates.

President Chirac has upset

the Germans and its mark-zone neighbours by leading a campaign for an economic council to balance the monetary drive by the central bank.

This suits German fears of political interference in interest-rate decisions that would bring a softer currency. While German public opinion is growing ever more worried about losing the mark to a weaker currency, pressure is rising in France for a euro that could be exchanged at a lower rate against the dollar, thus boosting European exports.

Since most of the technical preparations are now complete, the policy quarrel is likely to dominate the run-up this year to the choice of single currency members early in 1998. The currency will be launched in 1999.

Alexandre Lamfalussy, the EMI president, was at pains yesterday to insist that the new bank would not be a copy of the Bundesbank. "We have not taken over any model from any one country," he said.

Among big strategy choices left open by the EMI were the targets to use to ensure price stability. It narrowed the options to two: the monetary supply, as practised by the Bundesbank, or inflation rates, the approach favoured by the Bank of England. In a

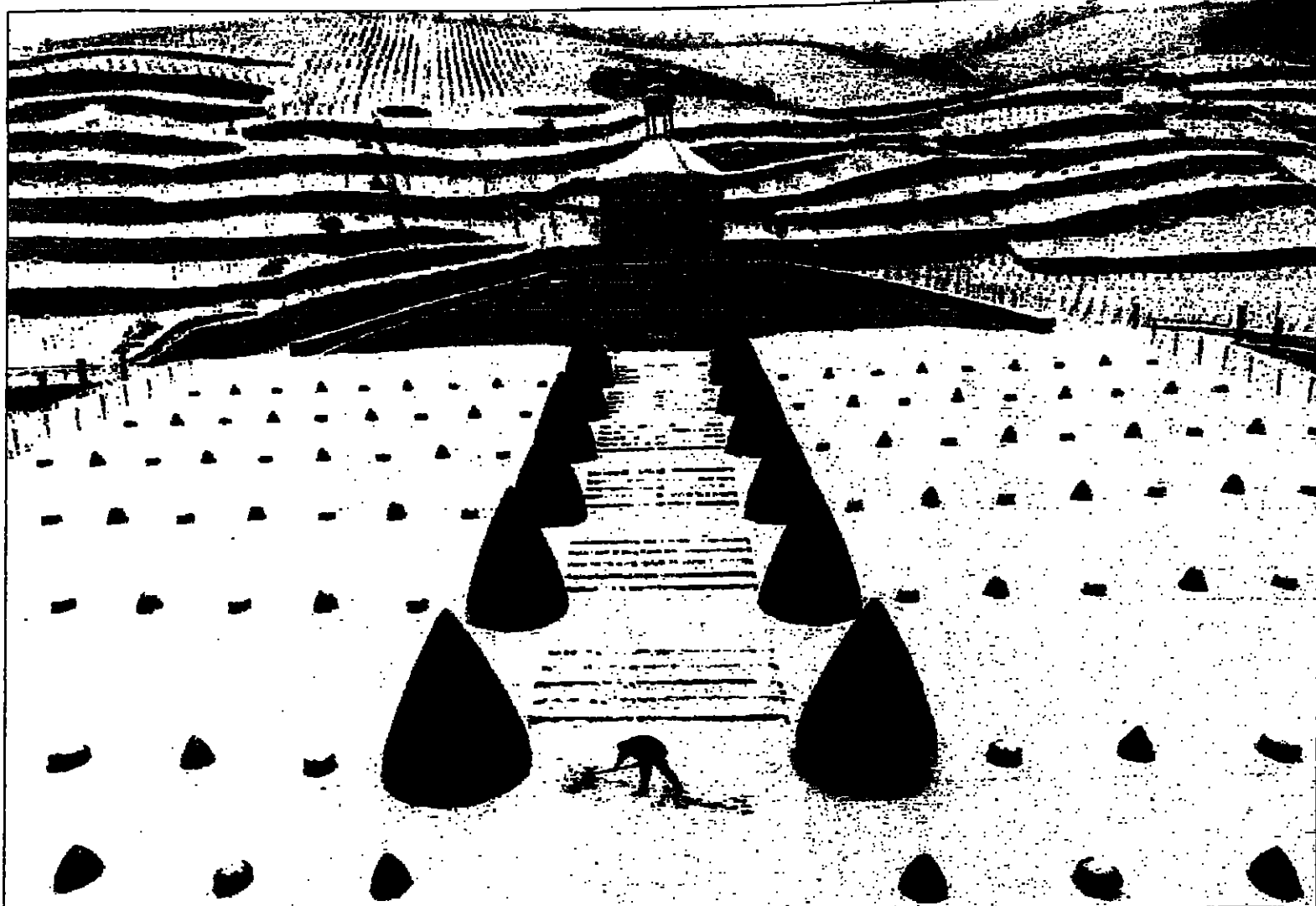
blow to the French approach, it ruled out the use of exchange rates as a target, saying this could interfere with the fight against inflation. Also discarded were exchange-rate targeting, interest-rate pegging, and nominal income targeting.

Market experts welcomed the EMI plans as the basis for sound monetary policy but noted that the central bank would need true independence from political interference. The euro had to be at least as stable as the current German mark, M Lamfalussy told the news conference.

The open question — still not answered by the EMI — is how far the central bank has to resemble the Bundesbank to reach that goal.

The final strategic decision will be made by the new bank next year, though the EMI said it intended to issue a comprehensive document outlining the pros and cons.

There was some quiet triumphalism in the air yesterday as the institute presented its report. *The Single Monetary Policy in Stage Three*. This claimed that technical preparations for the euro were well on track. The banknotes were displayed before Christmas. Now it was time for the tools available to the bank to go on show.



Snow brings a surreal look to the baroque terraced gardens, and the vineyards beyond them, at Wackerbarth Castle in Radebeul, near Dresden

Outcry at condoms for pupils

Rome: The headmistress of a Turin school yesterday defended her decision to distribute condoms to pupils despite vociferous criticism from the Vatican and the local Catholic hierarchy (Richard Owen writes).

Maria Luisa Vighi Miletto, principal of the Giordano Bruno High School, said the onslaught on the condom policy by *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, was "an attack on my profession... sincerity".

Distribution of condoms, intended to counteract teenage pregnancies as well as Aids and other sexually contracted diseases, is due to start at the school next month.

Pupils at the school said they were surprised by the "media fuss" and regarded the move as commonsense. But some parents have withdrawn their children.

Wine chemical 'fights cancer'

BY QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK AND JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

RED-WINE drinkers may wish to raise a glass to resveratrol, if they can wrap their loosened tongues around the word. A natural chemical of that name, in grape skins, has been found to prevent cancer.

Scientists from universities in Chicago and Madrid dosed cancerous rats with the chemical and concluded that it is one of the best natural anti-cancer agents yet discovered. It appears to block an enzyme which leads to the disease. It is hoped that the research could lead to diet supplements based on resveratrol which people could take to reduce their risks of cancer.

An alternative might be to drink enormous quantities of wine. However, oenophiles should note that to achieve the same dosages of resveratrol as given to the laboratory mice they would need to down five gallons of red wine a day.

The best source of resveratrol is wine made from the Pinot Noir grape such as Cotes de Nuits and Cotes de Beaune. A cheap bottle is even better than a fine Chateau de Pape. Ageing tends to deplete the wine of its health-giving properties. Levels are higher in wines produced in damp, cool, mould-prone climates.

cholesterol and reduce the risk of blood clots. Some scientists believe that flavonoids can account for the "French paradox" — that the wine-loving, fatty food-eating inhabitants of the Burgundy region live long, healthy lives.

Resveratrol was discovered in 1924 and identified in

tist in the research team, said: "Of all the plants we have tested, this one has the greatest promise. My hope is that one day we will be taking a dietary supplement as a cancer preventative, just like many people now take vitamins."

Resveratrol is also found in nuts, certain tree roots and mulberries, among other fruits. It has been used as a remedy in the Far East for centuries, extracted from Japanese knotweed and lilies.

John Fols, a cancer research scientist at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine, described the resveratrol research as "an important step forward" but said: "I do not think we should recommend that people eat a lot of grapes to prevent cancer, but the overall message is that fruits and vegetables are very useful against the disease."

Leading article, page 23

A cheap bottle is better than a fine vintage as ageing tends to deplete wine of its health-giving properties

such as France, than in the drier regions of California and Australia. Even white and rose wines, from which grape skins are taken at an earlier stage in production, contain appreciable amounts.

The chemical is a flavonoid, one of a group of substances that give wine its colour and flavour, and which also lower

Albanian ruler's widow freed

Tirana: Nexhmije Hoxha, widow of the Albanian Stalinist dictator, Enver Hoxha, left jail yesterday looking dignified and unscathed after serving five years for embezzling state cash to fund her luxury lifestyle.

The 76-year-old embraced her two sons and nephew who met her at the gates of Tirana's top-security prison.

During her husband's iron rule in Europe's poorest and most isolated state, his relatives held senior posts and enjoyed privileges of which ordinary Albanians could only dream. Hoxha ruled for four decades until his death in April 1985. A popular uprising toppled Albanian communism in December 1990. His widow was arrested a year later and sentenced in 1993 for misappropriating state funds and abuse of power. (Reuters)



Nexhmije Hoxha leaves prison in Tirana yesterday. She was met by her two sons

This winter, kids go free to Disneyland Paris



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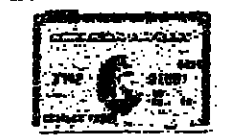
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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Turkish ministers warn Cyprus to scrap missile deal

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TURKEY renewed its threat yesterday to launch pre-emptive strikes against Cyprus if it goes ahead with its purchase of Russian S300 surface-to-air missiles.

Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Foreign Minister, told a news conference in Ankara: "If they are deployed, we will do whatever we have to and if that means they need to be hit, they will be hit."

Nicholas Burns, spokesman for the American State Department, earlier criticised as "wild and dramatic" a threat by the Turkish Defence Minister to respond to the missile purchase in the same way the United States threatened Cuba in 1962, by imposing a blockade on the island.

Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, urged the two countries to show maximum restraint and said that the UN Charter forbids the use of force in such disputes.

Much of America's anxiety

arises from an inability to second-guess the Turkish Government, led by Necmettin Erbakan, the pro-Islamic Prime Minister. "He is not a man who owes us any favours," one US government official said.

For Mr Erbakan, Cyprus's missile threat poses two immediate challenges: his first big foreign policy issue will

Ciller: speaking in Ankara yesterday

also test his ability to co-operate with Turkey's traditional Western allies. Mr Erbakan was a member of the Government that dispatched troops to Cyprus in 1974. He has protested publicly, during his long years in opposition, that Ankara was wrong at the time not to have taken the entire island.

Abdullah Gul, the Turkish Government spokesman and a trusted Erbakan aide, has warned the Greek Cypriot Government that its decision to deploy missiles capable of hitting the southern coast of Turkey was tantamount to war. Mr Gul is a moderate in the ruling Welfare Party government coalition. But he warned the Greek Cypriots that "if Turkey makes up its mind, they won't be safe even with an atomic bomb".

With more than 60 million Turks and fewer than a million Greek Cypriots, few doubt Ankara's ability to issue such a threat. But Western diplomats in the Turkish capital emphasise that Mr Erbakan is capable of pragmatism and is unlikely to seek conflict for its own sake. The greater concern is that Mrs Ciller, whose True Path Party is the junior partner in the coalition, will latch on to the Cyprus issue to distract attention from domestic scandals that implicate her party and that may reach her.

Her hawkish pronouncements yesterday appear to contradict the tactful line advised by her own ministry. "She is acting more as a spokeswoman for the army," Sedat Sertoglu, foreign editor of the newspaper *Sabah* said.

That interpretation echoes the biggest fears of Washington, that it has lost influence with its principal ally in Ankara, the Turkish military. The two had enjoyed a special relationship at the height of the Cold War.

Revived Polish cavalry stirs a nation

A squadron of lancers will bring pride to Nato, Roger Boyes writes

POLAND has started a recruiting drive for an elite cavalry unit in a move that is stirring memories of hopeless mounted charges against German tanks and dashing lancers in the service of Napoleon.

Strapping youths, between 5ft 9in and 6ft tall, are queueing to join the new squadron which is supposed to generate pride in the army on the eve of joining Nato. "The Western alliance will soon have a handy new formation on its eastern frontiers," a Western diplomat said drily. "No fuel bills and sensitive to the environment."

About 100 cavalrymen should be trained in time for a parade on August 15 to mark the Polish victory over the Bolsheviks in 1920. On that occasion — which is sure to irritate Moscow — the troopers will don the prewar uniform of four-cornered caps, high boots and purple shoulder flashes.

The cavalry tradition in Poland closely follows the history of the country's aristocracy. Mounted officers were almost always drawn from noble families and their mess dinners resembled country house gatherings: good chefs served food on silver, family retainers were drafted into the regiment and many officers were related to each other. For ordinary troopers enlisting in the cavalry was a form of social mobility.

The communist regime was suspicious of this elitist enclave and promptly abolished the cavalry. Even now, Roman Jagielski, the Deputy Prime Minister and appointed chairman of the Association of the Cavalry Squadron of the Polish Republic, has to reassure Poles that the cavalry will be recruited from every social class.

the lancers (known as Uhlans) was kept alive by the non-communist version of the Polish Boy Scout movement which passed on regimental songs and traditions. Most Polish schoolchildren have grown up with tales of battlefield daring, even if teachers under communism tended to play down the victory and emphasise the foorthardiness of the men on horseback.

The Polish cavalry under the command of Jan Sobieski saved Vienna from the Turks in 1683 — a victory that ensured the wholehearted approval of cavalrymen by the Roman Catholic Church for the best part of another three centuries.

The last great cavalry battles were fought against the Russians in 1920, but the image that has stuck is of the stubborn cavalry charges against invading German tanks in September 1939. General Rudnicki, in his 1974 memoirs *Last of the Warriors*, recalls several battles waged by the 9th Lancers against Panzer units. Some tanks were immobilised, but chiefly the cavalry succeeded in slowing the pace of the German

The emotional connection of the Polish cavalry with their doomed mounts emerges clearly in the general account of the German bombardment of Warsaw in late September, 1939. "Red glittering flames illuminated our horses ... a few of them were lying dead ... Kowalski's horse Cenzor was still alive, lying with its bowels ripped out. Not so long ago he had won the army's Challenge Cup in Tarnopol ... the next day somebody needing to still his own hunger would cut out a joint from his loins."



Polish lancers in 1939 managed at least to slow the advance of the German armour

Tension threatens new move to reunite island

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE Cyprus Government yesterday shrugged off threats of Turkish military action if it did not drop plans to buy Russian anti-aircraft missiles, insisting that it would continue its arms build-up despite a chorus of international disapproval.

Greek Cypriot officials also maintained that Turkey's bellicose reaction had been encouraged by London and Washington because they had sharply criticised Cyprus's decision to sign the missile contract last weekend.

"The Turkish threats show a blatant disregard for international law and order."

Yiannakis Cassoulides, the Cyprus government spokesman, said. "Our defence programme will continue undeterred by these threats." He added that the Government's main focus of attention would still be on solving the long-running Cyprus problem through diplomatic means.

But diplomats said that the missile deal had come at "the worst possible time" by increasing tension when a drive by Britain and the United States to reunite the island is expected before Cyprus begins accession talks with the European Union early next year.

Crowd attacks parliament

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HUNDREDS of people attacked the Bulgarian parliament in Sofia yesterday to press demands for early elections. They smashed furniture and equipment and set a room on fire.

Firefighters extinguished the blaze and police used tear-gas to prevent the protesters from seizing the building. The crowd had broken through police cordons and smashed windows to gain entry. The police blocked entrances to the parliamentary chamber, but

the crowd smashed furniture and computers in several offices. Police sources said ten officers were hurt. A anti-terrorist squad arrived to bolster the police presence. Amid the stench of teargas,

the besieged parliament, where the Socialists have a majority, voted against holding an extraordinary debate on an opposition-sponsored "salvation declaration" which would lead to early parliamentary elections. The crowd was reported to have grown to

more than 50,000 after dark. The Government has presided over a chaotic economy and collapsing currency this year and more than half the urban population is facing food shortages. The mafia is as bad as anywhere in Eastern Europe, with a stranglehold over the viable parts of the economy.

A European Union emergency aid programme is planned to start early next month, when serious bread shortages are predicted.

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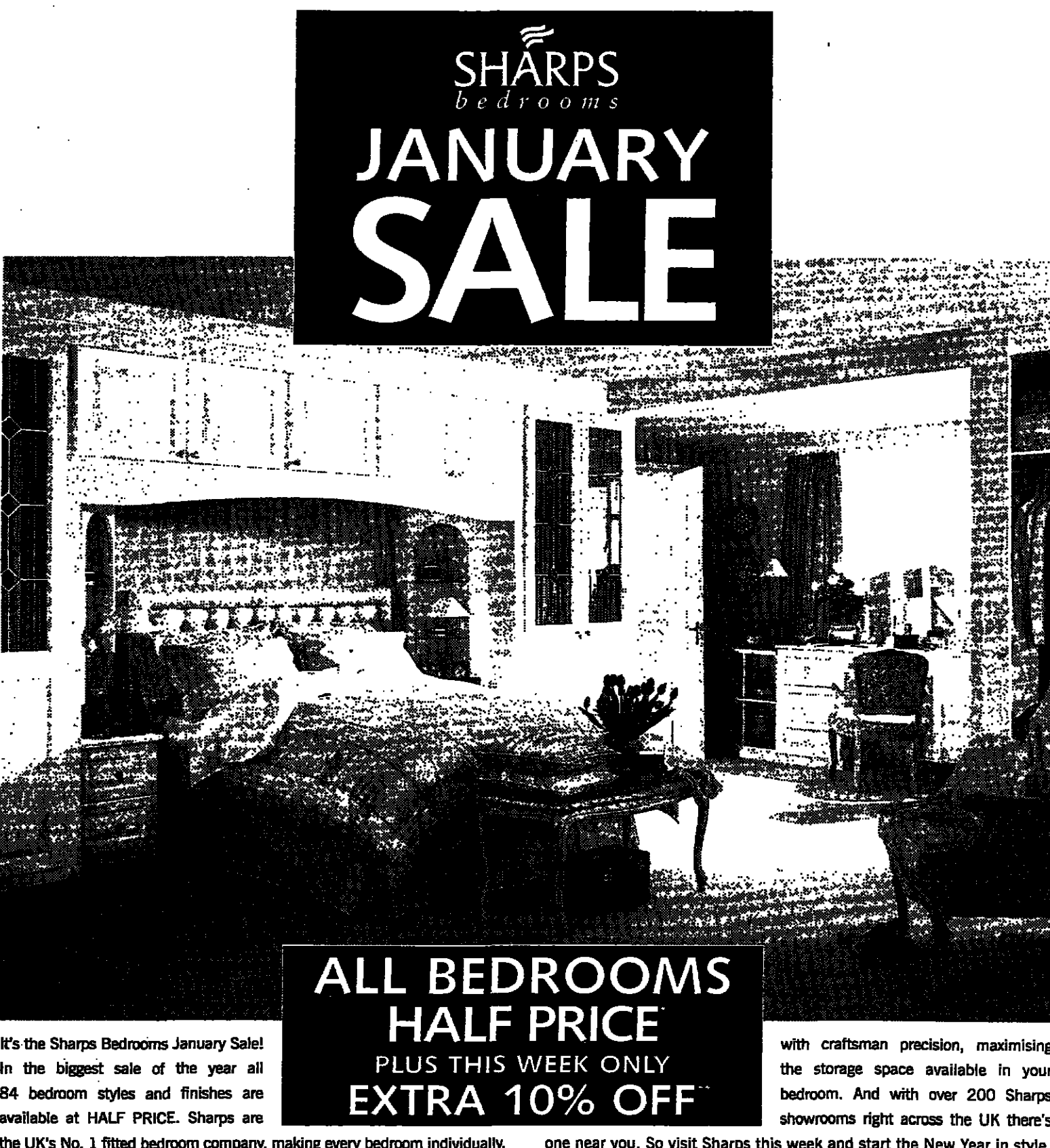
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■ OPINION

English National Opera's decision to quit the Coliseum deserves reasoned debate, not instant scorn



■ THEATRE 1

The Russian clown Slava Polunin serves up a visual feast in *Snowshow* at the Peacock

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ THEATRE 2

... while the Gate offers much heavier fare: three late "chamber plays" by Strindberg



■ MUSIC

Baton to watch: the fast-rising conductor Antonio Pappano steers the LSO through a memorable night

Those of us who are veteran organisers of kiddies' birthday parties — and proudly carry the scars to prove it — know that the one game you *always* avoid is musical chairs. First, it ruins the carpet. Secondly, letting small children run round in circles after feeding them jelly has unpredictable consequences. Thirdly, as the chairs are removed there are inevitable tears, closely followed by tantrums and then thuggery.

Why was I reminded of such merry scenes this week? Well, the wacky world of subsidised arts has been like a game of musical chairs recently, hasn't it? On the grunting table are billions of pounds, kindly donated by Uncle Lottery. And rushing round like demented toddlers — baring their way to the biggest piles of loot — are the bosses of London's cultural palaces.

One by one, they grab their seats and tear open the gift-wrapped parcels. To the Royal Opera House, £78 million. To Sadler's Wells, £30m. The Tate Bankside gets £50m. Wembley Stadium

Lottery backlash has floored ENO

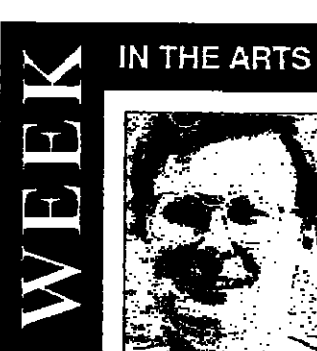
£100m, the British Museum £38m, the National Theatre £32m, the Albert Hall £40m, the Royal Court £10m, the Globe £12m, Kew Gardens £21m.

Then the music stops. Dotty old Grandpa Public Opinion has suddenly woken up. He has taken one horrified look at the greedy brats scrambling round his dining room, and ripped the gamephone out of his socket. The game's over. All the seats are occupied... and just one sad little figure is left wandering round, morose and empty-handed.

Yes, step forward, English National Opera. This week, months after everybody else, it launched its bid for big lottery bucks. It wants to quit the London Coliseum and build a new theatre. The reaction has been extraordinary. If ENO had announced a complete season of Bulgarian operettas it would not have provoked greater hostility.

The London *Evening Standard* — fearless in its calls for a billion quid to be poured down the drain of the Millennium Exhibition — denounced ENO's plan as profligate in an editorial mysteriously printed before ENO had announced its plan. David Mellor, frothing attractively at the mouth, accused ENO of committing "an outrageous breach of faith", a phrase which the first Mrs Mellor may have found grimly amusing. Paul Barker told his readers that the Coliseum needs little more than a "lick of paint".

And *The Independent's* arts correspondent revealed her solution to the Coliseum's acute backstage problems: ENO, she explained, should expand by buying an adjacent block of flats and chucking the tenants out. Sadly, she snuffed, this is an option which ENO "has not fully explored".



RICHARD MORRISON

Indeed not. The late President Ceausescu organised his town-planning much better, didn't he? And so the sheeplike chorus of bees and bees went on. If you need evidence that the tide of punditry

has turned against London as a recipient of lottery largesse, or against opera houses — or, indeed, against the arts in general receiving any more massive awards — then this week's coverage provides it. The bonanza is over. ENO's bad luck is to arrive too late at the trough. All the grub has been gobbled. The pigs have flown.

Yet ENO has a right to know one thing. Leaving aside the manner of its poor timing, are its arguments for ditching the Coliseum valid? On this question nobody who has viewed the theatre's perilous backstage tangle of Edwardian pulleys and planks has any doubt. There may be a good case for ENO not building a new opera house, and instead touring the country, focusing on new work, nurturing young British singers, wooing young audiences, and operating out of a smaller

London venue: the refurbished Sadler's Wells comes to mind. But there is no case at all for condemning it to perpetual decline in the crumbling Coli. One could compare the theatre's machinery to Fleet Street presses before the arrival of new technology, but that would belittle the avant-garde qualities of hot metal. To expect a modern opera company, changing its repertoire four times a week, to "patch up" this muddle is mad.

Here's another curious aspect to this mess. What does the Arts Council think about it? Does the Arts Council think? As usual, we have no idea. Does it support the notion of two opera companies in London, equally funded, competing in identical repertoire with identical styles of staging? We don't know. Does it think that a

new opera house, say on the South Bank, is viable? It won't say. Does it believe there is still a need for opera sung in English? Er, no comment. And don't quote us.

The Arts Council will not even admit that it has been informally discussing ENO's plans with the company for months. It looked on benignly as ENO articulated its hopeless dream in 300 pages of painstaking detail (spending £1.4 million of the Arts Council's lottery allocation in the process). Then, at the first hint of trouble, the Arts Council's noble chairman and Officers just melted away, leaving ENO to face the flak alone.

As so often, the Arts Council has displayed no strategy, no leadership, no backbone. The lottery offered a wonderful opportunity to sort out London's overlapping and near-bankrupt operatic life. Instead, the big questions have constantly been fudged, dodged and fumbled. And ENO, the most affectionately regarded opera company in Britain, has been betrayed. It's a sad start to 1997.

THEATRE: Slava Polunin brings his buffoonery to London; a Strindberg marathon worth the effort; and *Frankenstein* revisited

Clowning with bluebottle

Slava Polunin is a 46-year-old buffoon who wears a baggy yellow baby suit, red hedgehogs on his feet and flares through his abdomen. Appearances, as any fool will tell you, can be deceiving. Having hosted his own television show for 16 years on the Soviet network, Polunin is as popular in Russia as Sid Caesar is in



Snowshow is "a supremely childish and delightful visual feast" from the Russian television star, Slava Polunin

Snowshow
Peacock Theatre

the States. Without having to open his mouth, however, he is infinitely more funny, and as is the way with clowns, infinitely more melancholy. More Godot, I suspect, than Coco.

When we first see him he has a noose around his neck on a seemingly endless piece of rope. When he finally hauls the rest of it from the wings we discover Angela de Castro's panda-eyed clown on a noose at the other end.

Their mutual surprise flows into a disgruntled mimetic relationship. Where Polunin leads, Castro in her ludicrous *Deputy Diving* outfit tries to follow.

Predictably Polunin, an undoubted control freak, has all the ideas. As a stroboscopic electronic soundtrack, his sketches slide suggestively into each other like pieces of performance art. Lying on a metal bed frame, smoking a

pipe, he is suddenly bemused by the sight of a shark fin circling the stage. He discovers a woman stage right, wrapped in Cellophane like an *Interflora* bouquet. He tries to put her feet in a tiny vase. A burst of stage smoke later and the scene is strangely trans-

formed into a hunting ground for a stilled monster. But for all Polunin's bewitching art, it is the giant spectacles that sell this show. Sweeping with his broom, his sleeve gets caught on a spider's web that unravels into an enormous spun-cotton drag-

net. As he staggers down one of the aisles, the web, with a lot of willing help from the audience, miraculously flows over the stalls. When Polunin clambers back on stage a bluebottle the width of the proscenium crash-lands on his head — the inspired

squashed by the ridiculous. Despite its theatrical brilliance, *Snowshow* makes no great theatrical demands. It is a delightful visual feast with the emotional stamina of a Punch and Judy show. It is supremely childish. But I suspect the real reason we will always welcome Polunin is because he looks like a customised version of Bill Murray in *Ground Hog Day* — destined to tramp the theatrical fringes with his spectacular illusions and mad-professor hairstyle for eternity.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Paranoia past and present

The Chamber Plays
Gate, Wil

swings unpredictably from the cynical and angry to the resigned; but by Strindberg's standards these plays are not especially mad.

In *Storm* John Grillo's aging Man discovers that the violent musician living above him is his ex-wife's second husband, and their supposed child is really Man's. In *After the Fire*, Dudley Sutton's Stranger is the long-lost brother (or maybe that brother's ghost) of the Master-Dyer who persecuted him as a child, stole his inheritance and has now fired the ancestral home of their corrupt family in hopes of getting the insurance.

Both plays end in what's meant to be a spirit of acceptance and resignation; but you may find the Strindbergian feelings of grievance and (at times) paranoia more eloquent, at least in Wils Wilson and Loveday Ingram's admirably plain, unpretentious productions.

But it is Georgina Van Wellie's revival of *The Ghost Sonata* that is the pick of the proceedings, for, despite a religious ending, it does justice to a seldom-performed masterpiece. Here, the elegant Alan MacNaughtan is the power-mad Hummel, who comes to destroy the fake "Colonel" who has married his ex-fiancée and unwittingly accepted Hummel's daughter as his own. With Diana Fairfax as a woman who has spent 20 years crouched in a corner screaming like a parrot, Graham Kent as a vampire cook with a hatchet, and other oddballs on the periphery, it offers a picture of domestic hell. Very weird, very imaginative, very Strindberg.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

A monster of a novelist

PLAYS about famous dead artists often tumble into bathos when celebrated incidents or encounters have to be introduced. The dialogue tries to be conversational — "See here, Michelangelo, I'm the Pope and I want that ceiling finished now!" — but somehow it doesn't convince.

Liz Lochhead avoided such traps in the play she wrote ten years ago about Mary Shelley's creation of *Frankenstein*. She is a poet herself, which must have helped to get the tone right, and although one can imagine the play performed on radio without loss of clarity, it holds the stage as a clever and touching account of Mary's prickly solemnity and the odd circumstances surrounding her famous book. I had not noticed that the name she gives

Blood and Ice
New End, NW3

to the child killed by the unnamed monster is that of her own little boy.

Shelley, Byron, the unfortunate maid Elise, and Claire Clairmont are the other living characters — the last nicely described in the programme as "Mary's stepsister and millstone" — but there is also the Creature himself, no Boris Karloff but as handsome as Shelley. He addresses Mary as Frankenstein, which in a sense she is, but although Lochhead develops parallels between what Mary wrote and how she lived the two strands don't adhere to make a convincing argument.

reservation aside and enjoy John Link's smooth production, on an amply spare set by Douglas Heap where the actors are dressed in shades of brown, fawn and cream. All six, recently out of drama school, give precise, nuanced performances, suggesting well for their futures. The interplay is excellent, where Molly Gaisford's grave and clear-sighted Mary must deal with the hopelessly self-deceived Claire (Poppy Hill), or the boyishly impassioned Shelley of Justin Trefgarne distances himself from Luke Shaw's ironic Byron.

Amanda Morely and Luke de Lacey play the other characters, victims both, although one of them has the consolation of immortality.

However, you can put this

JEREMY KINGSTON

World beaters

CONCERT
LSO/Pappano
Barbican

THE young British-born, American-trained conductor Antonio Pappano has been hitting the headlines for some time with outstanding performances in the pit and on the podium. Thursday's concert, opening the London Symphony Orchestra's spring season, marked his debut with that orchestra, and a memorable encounter it proved.

Pappano's posture and stick technique may look awkward, but he gets the results. So long did he sustain the suppressed pianissimo excitement at the start of Smetana's *Bartered Bride* overture that the tension became well nigh unbearable. The explosions, when they came, were all the more potent, and the knife-edge precision of the strings, hurtling by at top speed, had to be heard to be believed.

The phrasing of the slow introduction of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony was slightly too well-manicured to be convincing, but thereafter Pappano's judgment was irreproachable. The main theme of the Allegro was so gracefully executed that every return was a delight, while woodwind counterpoints curled round it seductively. The lilting rhythms of the third-movement waltz ensured that it really danced, while the swirling orchestration of the finale built to an impassioned climax. High woodwind cries

can be made to tear through the texture more remorselessly, but Pappano's well-balanced, admirably calibrated account succeeded perfectly in its own terms.

Top marks to Pappano, too, for taming the notorious LSO brass. I have lost count of the number of times I have heard scores ruined by macho brass sections — this orchestra is an arch-offender, but the problem is a global one — allowed to obliterate important detail. Under Pappano's direction the brass dominated only when called to do so. This was the LSO once again on world-beating form.

Jan Smačny's programme note told of a legend that Dvořák preferred his Violin Concerto to that for cello. Posterity has reversed that assessment, and with good reason. Yet Maxim Vengerov is better equipped than most to win new admirers for the former, bringing warm lyricism, finely crafted phrasing and immaculate technique to bear in his performance.

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Man is born free — and in chains for his own good

Conor Cruise O'Brien on Burke,
Jefferson, Rousseau and the IRA

A reviewer of my recent book *The Long Affair: Thomas Jefferson and the French Revolution* made the point that in commenting on Jefferson, I also had Northern Ireland in mind. I was surprised by this point as I had not been conscious of making any such connection. On reflection, however, I find that the connection does indeed exist. It arises from what Jefferson wrote about France and Britain.

One of Jefferson's most enduring fantasies, which continued throughout the ten-year duration of the French Revolution, hinged on a wish that the French revolutionaries would conquer Britain. In one letter, dated February 23, 1798, Jefferson replies to a correspondent who had apparently expressed some qualms about Jefferson's rejoicing in the thought of the subjugation of the British by French revolutionary armies.

Jefferson wrote: "The subjugation of England would indeed be a general calamity. But happily it is impossible. Should it end in her only being republicanised, I know not on what principle a pure republican of our country could lament it. . . I do not indeed wish to see any nation have a form of government forced on them, but if it is to be done, I should rejoice at its being a freer one."

They may not be subjugated, but if the government forced upon them is "a freer one", Jefferson would rejoice. The concept that people might and should be "forced to be free" originated with Rousseau in *Du Contrat Social*. Jefferson never acknowledged any intellectual or moral debt to Rousseau, but the debt is evident in the peremptory paradox.

And it is in this paradox that the link with Northern Ireland today comes in. As shown in every general election for more than 100 years, a majority of the population in the area now known as Northern Ireland wish to remain in the United Kingdom. But this wish has never been acceptable to Irish nationalists, who make up a majority in the island as a whole. Some Irish nationalists, in the IRA, are using force to bring to Northern Ireland a version of freedom which a majority of the people of Northern Ireland are known to reject. In short, these people are to be forced to be free.

The idea of forcing other people to be free, as the enforcer conceives of freedom for these people, has been around for more than 200 years. It was one of the guiding principles of the French Revolution. In its expansionist phrases, those in each country who wished to embrace the French Revolution might be only a small minority, but they were the only people who counted.

Most Belgians did not want to become part of the French Revolution. But what most Belgians wanted did not matter for such an ardent champion of the French Revolution as Jules Michelet. Michelet neatly divided the population of Belgium into two groups: those who wanted to be part of France (and therefore free) and those who did not. The former were *les vrais Belges*, the latter *les faux Belges*.

It didn't matter what the false Belgians thought or felt about anything: it was only what the true Belgians thought and felt that counted. As for the false Belgians, who didn't actually want the freedom that France was offering them, there was only one remedy: they must be forced to be free.

Modern Irish nationalists do not possess the Cartesian clarity and intellectual daring of the great Michelet. These nationalists do not actually say that the Protestants of Northern Ireland are "false Irishmen" who must be forced to be free. But that is the general idea behind

the Irish nationalists' drive, especially in its manic form, as cherished and practised by the IRA. The nearest deflation of Rousseau's peremptory style and manner of thinking is in a phrase by Faguet. Faguet quotes Rousseau's famous phrase "Man is born free, but everywhere is found enslaved and in chains", and comments: "It would be equally correct to say that sheep are born carnivorous and everywhere eat grass."

Edmund Burke intensely disliked the mode of thinking and the forms of eloquence that are common to Rousseau and Jefferson: the striking, confident generalisations, the cult of freedom as an absolute. Burke stresses limits, cautious against the charms of the peremptory and of the overbearing.

The following passage from *On Conciliation with America* (1775) is characteristic:

My hold of the colonies is in the close affection which grows from common names, from kindred blood, from similar privileges and equal protection. These are ties which, though light as air, are as strong as links of iron. Let the colonies always keep the idea of their civil rights associated with your government, they will cling and grapple to you and no force under Heaven will be of power to tear them from their allegiance. But let it be once understood that your government may be one thing and their privileges another, that these two things exist without any initial relation—the cement is gone, the cohesion is loosened, and everything hastens to decay and dissolution.

As it duly did, Burke hated Rousseau more than he hated anybody else. I think, except Warren Hastings, and has a splendid denunciation of him in his *Letter to a Member of the National Assembly* (1791). Rousseau, he says, was led "to exhaust the stores of his powerful rhetoric in the expression of universal benevolence, while his heart was incapable of harbouring one spark of common parental affection". He cites Rousseau's abandonment of all his five children to the founding asylum, as soon as born, and adds the marvellous comment: "The bear loves, licks and forms her young; but bears are not philosophers."

Curiously (and sadly, as I think), Burke left us no equivalent comment on Thomas Jefferson. Indeed, he left us no comment at all on Jefferson, although Jefferson, during the last years of Burke's life, was as fierce a friend of the French Revolution as Burke was an enemy. Burke knew from Tom Paine of Jefferson's support for the French Revolution, but did not comment. He always denied the continuity of the French Revolution with the American one, but ignored Jefferson's assertion of that continuity.

Burke ignored Jefferson, but Jefferson did not ignore Burke. On receiving Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, Jefferson immediately decided that Burke's attack on the French Revolution showed that his support for the American Revolution had been hypocritical. "How mortifying that this evidence of the rottenness of his mind should oblige us now to ascribe to wicked motives those actions of his life which were the mark of virtue and patriotism."

Burke probably never learnt of this wild attack, but if he had he would almost certainly have ignored it. His enemies in Britain were saying the same sort of thing — though less wildly — and these were the attacks he found it necessary to rebut.

The Referendum Party's advertisement is an absurd distortion of history, says John Campbell

Did Heath deceive Britain over Europe?

If you are going to accuse others of deceit it is wise to be honest yourself. But the Referendum Party's advertisement in yesterday's newspapers claiming to offer "chilling proof" that Ted Heath and others "lied to us on Europe" is itself misleading. The evidence presented, a letter to Heath from "Britain's Lord Chancellor" spelling out the constitutional implications of British entry into the Community, proves no such thing.

First, the letter reproduced is not, as was implied, written by Heath's Lord Chancellor (that is Lord Hailsham of Marylebone) around 1970, but ten years earlier in December 1960, by Harold Macmillan's Lord Chancellor, Lord Kilmer, when Heath was no more than Lord Privy Seal charged with testing the water for a possible application. The Cabinet did not even decide to apply to join until the following July. The letter was evidently a response to a request from Heath for legal advice and formed part of the normal process of consultation before the Government made its decision.

So the letter is not, as is suggested, a sensational discovery. It has been sitting in the Public Record Office since 1991. Nor is the content in the least surprising. It is precisely the sort of advice you would expect the Government's

legal adviser to give before a major constitutional departure. It is certainly not proof of deceit.

It simply demonstrates that the Macmillan Government — and, one must assume, all subsequent governments, Conservative and Labour, which pursued and eventually achieved membership of the Community — were perfectly aware of the constitutional implications. The Referendum Party is trying to revive the allegation that those governments were not as frank as they might have been in sharing those implications with the electorate. But that is an old argument to which Kilmer's letter adds nothing at all.

Since the party has now made available the complete letter — more than is legible in the advertisement — it is possible to see it as an admirably clear assessment of the implications of signing the Treaty of Rome. "I must emphasise," Kilmer writes, "that in my view the surrenders of

sovereignty involved are serious ones and I think that, as a matter of practical politics, it will not be easy to persuade Parliament or the public to accept them."

He goes on: "I am sure that it would be a great mistake to underestimate the force of the objections to them. But these objections ought to be brought out into the open now because, if we attempt to gloss over them at this stage, those who are opposed to the whole idea of our joining the Community will certainly seize on them with more damaging effect later on."

This was certainly a warning which Heath, his colleagues and successors might have done well to heed. They are all of them — including Margaret Thatcher in signing the Single European Act — open to the charge that in their anxiety to win support for what seemed to them at the time an urgent national interest they laid insufficient emphasis on the future development of the Community. But that does not

begin to justify the charge of lying. At worst, they were guilty of stressing the immediate benefits over the distant costs — scarcely an unusual oversight in politicians.

But Heath never disguised that his conception of Europe was a political community or denied that it would involve some progressive pooling of sovereignty: he was scornful of those who saw sovereignty as something to be hoarded in the national cellar, to be inspected periodically and put away again. If he, Roy Jenkins and the other leading pro-Market leaders in both parties did not spell out all the details, that was because no one could tell exactly how the Community would evolve: the important thing was to be in it, so as to be able to influence its evolution.

In fact, an astonishingly ambitious programme was laid down in 1972. In Paris that October — three months before Britain actually joined — Heath, Pompidou and Brandt agreed to press on with

economic and monetary union by the end of the decade. The 1973 oil crisis made nonsense of that timetable, but the point is that hardly a murmur of opposition was raised at the time. No one could claim at the time of the 1975 referendum that the goal of monetary union had not been spelt out.

In 1960 when Kilmer wrote his letter, and still in 1973 when Heath led Britain into Europe, the governments of the day considered the implications of some loss of sovereignty and judged it worthwhile. Enoch Powell was a member of Macmillan's Government, which applied in 1961, and did not reverse his support for membership until 1968. Thatcher was in Heath's Cabinet, and did not turn against further integration until 1983.

The difference is that a generation ago we were not so frightened. We still considered ourselves a great power: we talked of "leading" Europe, just as Germany today is willing to trade national sovereignty for influence in a larger entity. The Referendum Party's fear of Europe, which leads to such hysterical distortions as yesterday's advertisement, is simply a measure of the decline of British confidence.

Dr John Campbell is the author of *Edward Heath (Penguin)*. He is currently writing a biography of Margaret Thatcher.

Why the best of us still dare

The British crave danger — but expect others to be risk-averse

No doubt of the heroes of this week. Tony Bullimore and Richard Branson have ventured, and failed in style. They have performed the task that the British expect of their 20th-century adventurers. They have taken on the world, the world has given them a bloody nose and they have responded with courage, dignity and humour. From Scott of the Antarctic to Frank Bruno, a tradition has been honoured. When Mr Branson's monumental stunt came to a premature end, he praised the Algerian Army. When Mr Bullimore was hauled from the Indian Ocean, he praised his suit. An Englishman in trouble always thanks his regiment and his tailor. These days, any regiment and any tailor will do.

I am deeply envious of both men. In the days of my youth, I and some friends drew up a tally of precocious tasks that we felt an adventurous soul should attempt in a lifetime. I vaguely recall it listed trekking the jungle, racing a horse, climbing the Matterhorn, witnessing a war, rewriting *Don Juan* and dining at La Tour d'Argent. The list definitely embraced crossing the Sahara and sailing an ocean. No human being could claim to know the planet until these tasks had been accomplished.

Needless to say, the bravado has lapsed. Fate at some point took me to the jungle and a war. But altitude sickness hit me on the Matterhorn and galloping is firmly prohibited in Rotten Row. The world and I have narrowed our horizons together. La Tour d'Argent is not what it was and Don Juan has only caused trouble. As Byron reflected on reaching 50: "My heart is not much greener and, in short, I have squandered my whole summer while 'twas May." Even his last for a duel was now confined to "a moderate desire of killing one's more personal enemies".

So to watch two Britons tackle both the Sahara and the ocean in one week has been painfully nostalgic. I had both trips in mind, when I had finished the crossword and cleared out the attic. Bullimore and Branson not only taunt us with their enterprise, but with their age. Branson is 40, Bullimore 50. While that other modern adventurer, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, is 52. His retreat from Antarctica was last month's heroic failure. Fifty is clearly the

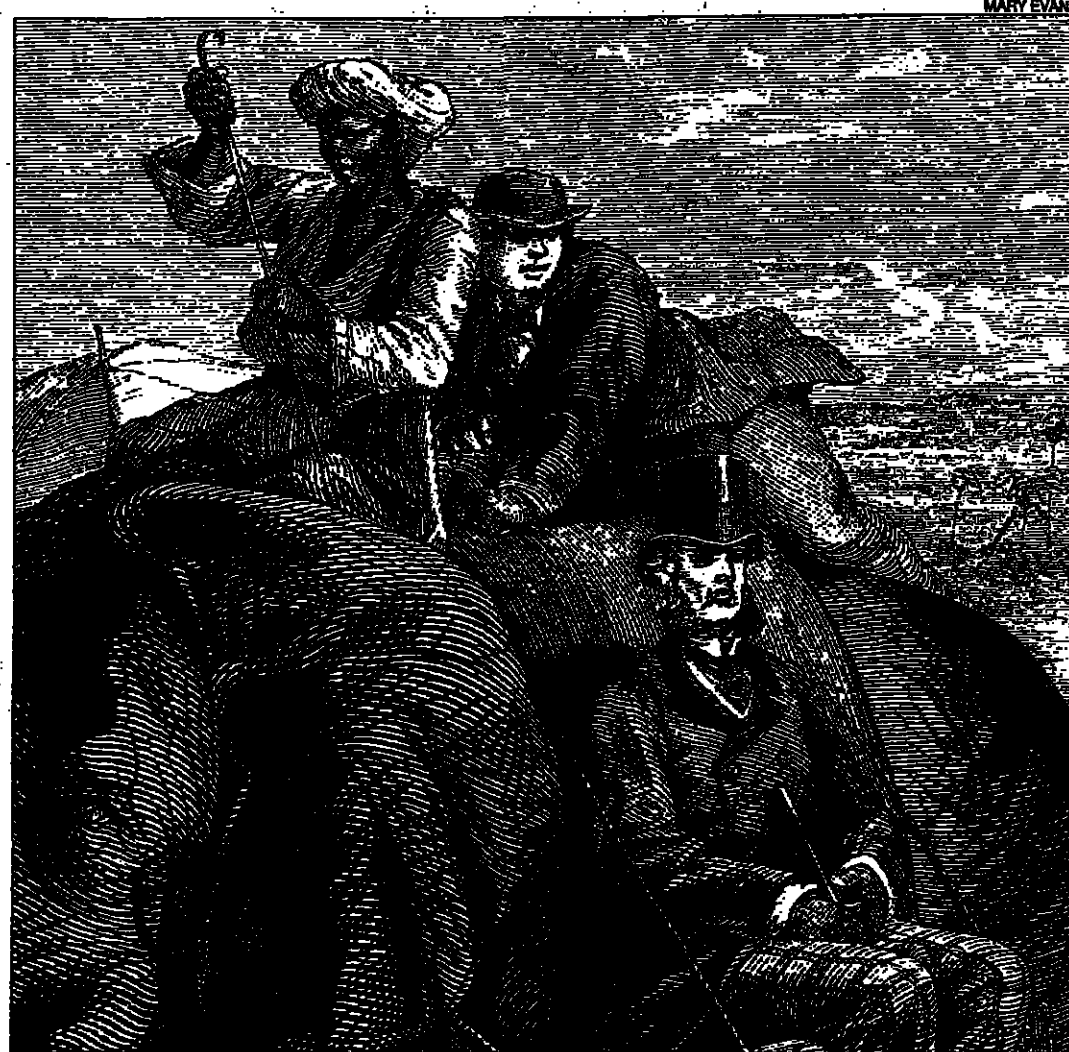
age that separates the men from the boys. The first man to sail single-handed round the globe, Joshua Slocum, did so at the age of 51 (in 1895). So there are no excuses. Back to the lists, Jenkins. Up and at 'em.

Which brings me to the Health and Safety Executive. Two phenomena are noted by today's philosophers of risk. One is that the human inclination to danger appears undiminished. If anything, it is enhanced by age and the greater accessibility of natural challenges. The other is that, despite seeking danger ourselves, we expect others to be risk-averse. We want to do crazy things ourselves, but everybody else, including the Government, must strive to make that craziness safe.

As the risk theorist John Adams puts it: "In the dance of the risk thermostats, the music never stops." Reduce risk in one area of life and we struggle to increase it in another to compensate. We thus respond to safer cars (and seat belts) by driving faster. We scream about the risk of BSE in Britain, but gamble with our guts over tandoori chicken in Agra.

In other words, we are hypocrites about risk. Roads must get ever safer, restaurants more spottless and insurance more lavish. Councils are to be sued if they leave so much as a paving stone jutting on edge — by a lawyer who will boast a macho walk through the Hindu Kush. We want to die with death, but expect the Government and insurance industry to rescue us if we misjudge the odds. And if they fail to honour their side of this unequal bargain, we sue.

The millions of pounds that the Royal Australian Navy and Air Force spent rescuing Mr Bullimore was in the tradition of the sea. This was despite him being more than the 1,500 miles from shore within which every nation has a duty to assist a vessel in distress. A ship must also rescue another ship, at a cost normally covered by insurance. But modern satellite equipment means that any sailor anywhere can now be considered rescuable. This must question the risk to rescuers' lives of rescuing round-the-world racers who take the short cut across the Southern Ocean and put themselves thousands of miles from sensible help. They must take this route knowing subconsciously that technology



Passaport's uneasy ride on an elephant in Jules Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days*

lowers the risk of them getting lost. In Dr Adams's terms, these sailors are re-establishing the pre-technology balance of risk. They want to experience the same danger, as did Slocum in the 1890s. The difference is that Slocum later sailed from Rhode Island on another voyage, and he and his boat were never seen again. Arthur Ransome wrote in his superb introduction to Slocum's memoirs, for all we know "they are sailing still and will sail on and on". Today the world would have followed their path by satellite and heard any cries for help.

Likewise with Mr Branson. Time was when merely rising off the ground was extremely hazardous. Phil Fogg and his passenger barely risked their gondola above a hundred feet. Aeronautics makes hot-air ballooning safer, so Mr Branson seeks the upper jetstream, to outdo Fogg and restore the balance of danger and adventure. He increased the risk, to the point of failure. Had he come down in the Sahara in Fogg's day he would probably have vanished. Branson and his team had instant rescue.

Their danger was thus mitigated, though real. (I note that when a mother, Alison Hargreaves, risked and lost her life in 1995 on K2, she was widely criticised for neglecting her family duties: British heroes can be fathers but not mothers.) The prospect before us is both exhilarating and alarming. It is of ever more reckless adventurers attracting ever greater publicity. They will climb Everest blindfold or row a bath-tub round the world or shoot themselves into space and we will cheer them on. Adventure holidays will boom: Amazonia and the Himalayas will clog with trippers.

Yet this enthusiasm will see an equal and opposite boom in safety authoritarianism. Already the regulations for organised sailing, riding and mountaineering render such activities expensive and even dull. A canoeing tragedy in Devon two years ago was greeted by an army of newspapers, politicians and safety inspectors demanding to know how such an accident "could have been allowed to happen". I am

told that sail training in old-fashioned schooners has, like commercial boating on the Thames, been all but wiped out by Department of Transport inspectors since the *Marchioness* disaster.

The quest for danger has had to find ever more eccentric outlets. Young people skydive, race motorbikes and take drugs. Like the players in *Guns and Dolls*, they will find somewhere to shoot dice with death. Leisure-time accidents have replaced disease as the commonest cause of fatality among the young, with men twice as likely to die as women. Many take their craving for danger offshore. Bullimore and Branson made their own risk assessments. They did not rely on government to do it for them. They came unstuck, but will surely seek to blame no one but themselves and the gods of misfortune.

Every time we lengthen the odds on danger, someone shortens them again. We salute them for it. In doing so, they restore our respect for nature, and remind us of the silliest statistic of all. The human being's risk of death is always one hundred per cent.

Chalk and cheese

AS DIANA, Princess of Wales, packs her mosquito repellent before heading for Angola tomorrow, the Foreign Office is getting out of that country sharpish. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Minister for Overseas Development, will be touching down on her return from Africa just as the Princess takes off.

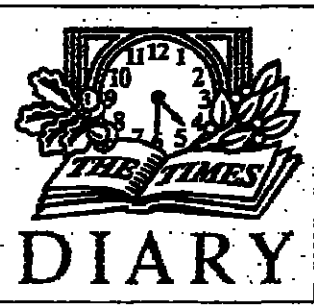
Although the Foreign Office was informed well in advance of the

Princess's trip, it made no effort to link Lady Chalker into the schedule. The country simply isn't big enough for both ladies: Lady Chalker has never forgotten how the glamorous Princess attracted more flashbulbs in Nepal three years ago, when both of them toured together.

"There are well-founded reports that Lady Chalker felt her visit had



Lady Chalker and the garlanded Princess: smiling through



been overshadowed by the Princess of Wales," said one commentator. "They both were at pains later to deny any difficulties. But Baroness Chalker would, wouldn't she. She was head girl at Roedean."

The Red Cross, organising the Princess's visit, said yesterday that it had never been informed of Lynda Chalker's visit to Angola. The Foreign Office explained: "Entirely two separate operations. There's no link between them."

Will power

EVEN for the most ardent Kennedy tat merchants, this is top-shelf stuff: "The Last Will and Testament

of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Collector's Edition Authentic Reproduction with Original Signature." The American publishers Carroll & Graff tell us that "this deluxe facsimile of the complete, unedited will . . . a beautiful yet unadorned document, is both a keepsake and a memory book . . ." The book has gilt-edged pages and that undefinable "heirloom quality". It makes O.J. Simpson's autobiography look like *The Downing Street Years*.

Charming

MOLESWORTH lives on in the only corridors of Harrow School, where snakes have become the favourite pet. Usually, the snakes are kept in the biology centre. When the centre closed early at the end of last term, however, they had to be transferred to the spare bedroom of a particularly brave house matron.

"We did have about ten snakes and a chameleon but we are now down to about four," said one ink-smudged ophiophile.

There was a boa constrictor and a royal python. We feed them frozen mice and rats but some of the

boys have fridges in their rooms to keep a supply.

● Dick Francis may soon find himself supplanted in the affections of the Royal Family by a rival author, Frederick Forsyth, writer of thrillers such as *The Day of the Jackal*, defended the Royals so stoutly during the shamolic Carlton debate on the monarchy on Tuesday that



Vote for me

he has become the new hero at Buckingham Palace. Honours are expected.

Paris match

THROUGHOUT what promises to be a tricky Ashes series this summer, Mike Atherton can keep up his winning gender by thinking of September and his benefit tour to Champagne. After ten years of county cricket, Atherton, a Lancashire man, and a whole charabanc of former England captains, including Graham Gooch, David Gower, Ian Botham and Bob Willis, are planning a tour, the highlight of which will be a match against France at the Château de Thoiry near Paris.

The boys are travelling over by Eurostar, courtesy of Atherton's wine merchant, Lay & Wheeler, and though Atherton himself prefers white burgundy to champagne, will take in the houses of Bollinger, Veuve Clicquot and Laurent Perrier. Too much boozing, however, and the loss to Zimbabwe may seem like small beer. The only time they met, in 1989, France whipped MCC.



Atherton: winning

● Next time the Tate Gallery needs to raise funds, it might recall a decision made by the board in 1966, and now revealed in official papers released after 30 years: Two pictures by David Hockney were offered to the Tate for £60 each. Both, O for a gentle Lover and UN FMM, were rejected — too racy, apparently. Early Hockneys these days go for hundreds of thousands of pounds.

P.H.S



GAS AND GAITERS

Bishops should be political, but not partisan

Some Christians may feel that the only place bishops should oppose each other is on the chessboard. The sight of right reverend gentlemen crossing croziers in the election campaign will offend those who expect the Church to concentrate on the next world, not this one. But churchmen have a right, indeed duty, to address themselves to moral questions and these will inevitably shade into the political. The objection to the Bishop of Edinburgh's intervention on behalf of Tony Blair should not be that he sensed the need to speak, but that he spoke so little sense. His undergraduate essay in *The Church Times* looks all the more inappropriate next to the more measured words of the Archbishop of York. Although Archbishop Hope spoke before *The Church Times* went to press his thoughtfulness is the best rebuke to Bishop Holloway's banalities.

Although politicians might be tempted to remind the Church that there should be a strict demarcation between God's dominion and Caesar's, the border has always been porous and is becoming even more so. Both Archbishop Hope and Bishop Holloway are members of the Anglican communion. As Anglo-Catholics they might consider their Church the Church of St Augustine, but it is an Erastian foundation. The established status of the Church of England with bishops in the House of Lords and the Prime Minister supervising preferment binds it into the political life of the nation.

If John Major were to consider prelates now more politicised than ever, he might turn to his favourite author for enlightenment. In Anthony Trollope's *Barchester Towers* the opening chapters reflect the importance of political colouring in the 19th century in deciding on the candidates for vacant dioceses. Bishops have greater justification than in the recent past for addressing political questions. The excursions into amateur theology by the Prime Minister and Mr Blair and the fumbled attempts of both parties to appropriate the

public appetite for ethical renewal legitimise interventions from the Church.

Although bishops have an important role to play in political debate it should not be as politicians in purple. The authority of the Church, and the influence of any intervention, will be all the greater if bishops refrain from agitprop rhetoric and narrowly partisan stances. Bishop Holloway's observation that the "moral vision of Socialism has always been higher than that of Conservatism", and it was Karl Marx who understood why, is almost beyond satire.

It would be offensive to those millions of Christians who have suffered and continue to suffer under Marxist oppression if it were not so obviously naive. The Gospel is the possession of no party. Conservatives might lay more stress on original sin and respect for authority, progressives might stress Jesus's embrace of the excluded and disdain for the material. Neither group is the exclusive guardian of the tabernacle.

That sense permeates the words of David Hope, an effective theological college principal and skilful Bishop of London who shows every sign of proving an impressive Archbishop of York. Offering a gentle, and welcome, reproof to earlier interventions from other bishops interpreted as supportive of Labour, Dr Hope argues that "overriding pessimism has to be tempered and balanced by a recognition of some positive factors about where Britain is".

The archbishop also displays a more sophisticated approach to tackling what many of his colleagues, remarking that "there is evidence from across the world that welfare destroys as much as it protects". Dr Hope's implication, that individual moral choices matter more than collective political decisions in ensuring human dignity, is the sort of insight a bishop should lend to politics. In an election that seems destined to descend into all kinds of name-calling, there will be a need for more still, small voices of good sense such as Dr Hope's.

ASIAN BATTLEFRONTS

Enthusiasts for stakeholding should look quickly east

The strikes in South Korea yesterday claimed their first serious casualty when a Hyundai striker set fire to himself. The 200,000 angry protesters have already made union unrest in Germany or even France seem as bland as mineral water. Across the Sea of Japan in Tokyo, investors are dumping stock at a furious rate. They doubt whether Japanese growth will exceed 1.5 per cent this year; and they know that its debt-laden Government, which has already spent \$200 billion on refuting the economy since the "Japanese bubble" burst, has run out of both fiscal and monetary ammunition.

The two "unbeatable" Asian economies of the 1980s have taken severe knocks this decade; and for their citizens, the novelty of job insecurity is the culmination of a series of cultural and political shocks. If the Labour Party really believes that the "stakeholder society" which Japan could be said to have pioneered points the way to Britain's future prosperity, it should look carefully at these quivering Asian seismographs.

Japan's troubles may prove temporary — precisely because both politicians and public are finally confronting the truth that its Establishment has long dodged, which is that deregulation offers the only solid basis for regaining competitive élan. But the benefits of the reforms now in the pipeline will not show for some time. South Korea has a still longer, and much rockier, road ahead. The Government's bruising battles with the traditionally militant unions that form its industrial élite are a foretaste of the troubles it can expect as it opens up the economy and dismantles the interventionist machinery of state-guided capitalism.

Reform of South Korea's labour laws, unchanged for 43 years, is overdue for two reasons. They are too restrictive, forcing much legitimate union activity into the domain of illegality; and they compensate workers for lack of freedom by making it all but

impossible for employers to shed labour. Democracy has exacerbated these anomalies, widening the wage gap between average workers and the 15 per cent who are unionised. For the past decade, employers who could no longer count on riot police to suppress union agitation have brought industrial peace with wage rises averaging 15 per cent a year, in deals not remotely compensated by rises in productivity. South Korea has become a high-cost economy with a large trade deficit. The Government is also under pressure at home and abroad to ease military-era controls on workers' rights.

President Kim Young Sam has, however, gone about reform in a manner calculated to infuriate not only the unions, but the broader public which was at least half-persuaded of the need for reform. The Government's first mistake, for fear that South Korea's turbulent Opposition would succeed in blocking the new legislation, was to pull the decidedly undemocratic trick of rushing it through a vote before dawn on December 26, while opposition politicians were still asleep. Its second was to divide the reforms into two stages, giving immediate effect to laws allowing employers to sack workers and to bring in temporary staff to break strikes, but postponing most of the measures to liberalise union laws until 2002.

South Korea is no stranger to mass strikes; 400,000 took to the streets in 1989 and, so far, the protests have been much less violent than they were then. The Government is refusing to budge, gambling that a mixture of patriotism and anxiety about the faltering economy will produce a drift back to work. Since the law is flawed and its semi-clandestine passage has caused outrage, it would be better advised to offer a compromise. The huge task of overhauling South Korea's superannuated economic model will be harder still if its mishandling of labour reforms embitters the whole society.

THE GRAPE THAT HEALS

Wine is a panacea for life as well as its raisin d'être

Scientists at the University of Illinois have discovered that grapes may cure cancer. After provisional researches on mice and cell structures, they have identified a cancer-fighting agent which they have named, without much poetic or therapeutic feeling, resveratrol.

This medicinal substance was first discovered in a rare Peruvian legume called *Cassia quinquagula*. But it also occurs in grapes, particularly in red grapes, and grape products, including wine. This is a bonus for those who analyse, collect and market resveratrol. And it is encouraging for drinkers of red grape products that were invented for the British market such as claret, port and madeira. It is less encouraging for those who prefer white wine such as chardonnay, because they suppose it to be fashionable or less fattening. It also comes as a relief for haters of peanuts, (the other host of resveratrol) or of broccoli (another promising "chemopreventive" of cancer).

For many years folk wisdom has declared that grapes are the appropriate present to take to the sick, even if the giver, having run out of cheerful conversation, then eats them himself. But for an even longer time poets and sages have praised the pleasures and

benefits of wine. So sang Omar Khayyam. But the founders of Europe believed that wine was a mark of civilisation itself, as well as a source of poetic inspiration and political wisdom. They summoned up powerful gods to represent the grape and its products, declaring their mission to spread the pleasures of civilisation to the barbarians. These pleasures were urban life, constitutional government, *pax Romana* — and *vinum*. Wine was the crown of their elite social occasions, the dinner and drinking party. Scholars trace the spread of Greek colonisation and the Roman Empire by the mountains of amphorae and the shards of other wine-vessels they left behind.

Their poets, from Homer and Horace to Ausonius, their tragedians and comedians and their vase-painters celebrated the grape as beneficial. The Psalmist and many subsequent writers agree that wine makes glad the heart of gods and men. And the more enlightened medical writers still confirm their view. The American scientists are the first to suggest that wine may cure cancer. May they prove right. But even while their research remains a hypothesis, the claim that wine is a comfort for the long disease of life is as old as civilisation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Counting the cost of 'American zero'

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, Your leader on criminal justice policy ("American zero", January 8) comments the mandatory sentencing practices introduced in California. We have recently made these the subject of detailed research.

We certainly found that California — unlike almost every other state — has embraced "three strikes and you're out" with gusto. It is also true that crime rates have fallen. But the decline in crimes actually began two years before "three strikes" was enacted and mirrors a national trend.

Whatever their effect on crime, mandatory penalties have had a very definite impact on the courts and the prisons. The number of guilty pleas has declined, leading to courtroom congestion. And the number of prisoners held on remand has mushroomed. One authoritative estimate is that "three strikes" will cost Californian taxpayers \$5.5 billion each year in prison running costs alone.

The mandatory penalties in the Government's Crime (Sentences) Bill proposed for domestic burglars and Class A drug dealers on their third conviction, and repeat sexual or violent offenders, are more modest than those implemented in California. But there are clear warnings of the likely consequences (not least in terms of public spending on building and maintaining new jails) from Californian experience.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW,
Director, Prison Reform Trust,
The Old Trading House,
15 Northburgh Street, EC1,
January 8.

From the Minister of State,
Home Office

Sir, Your leading article was right to suggest that there are lessons we can learn from successful approaches to tackling crime which have been deployed in the United States.

It is important to ensure that criminals are caught and that they are properly dealt with when they are caught. We seek to build on best practice from the West and East Coasts of the US, and indeed elsewhere, to achieve these objectives, as they frequently learn from our experience. You were wrong to suggest that the Government's proposals for mandatory minimum sentences are modelled on the approach adopted by Governor Wilson in California. And wrong as well to suggest that the Government is ignoring the lessons of the successes of policing in New York. The proposals in the Crime (Sentences) Bill build on some of the lessons from California but are specifically targeted on serious and persistent offenders from whom the public needs greater protection. I have also been encouraging the police to use some of the tactics which build on experience in New York.

Britain's voters will not therefore, as you say, have to choose between these two approaches. We are pursuing the best of both.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MACLEAN,
The Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
January 8.

'Hollywood Lovers'

From Mr L. Taylor

Sir, The managing director of the company which made *Hollywood Lovers* accuses the managing director of Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television, Mr Bruce Gynge, of censorship for his stand against television's obsession with sex and the sexual parts of the anatomy [report and leading article, January 4; letter, January 10].

Broadcasters have a legal obligation to ensure their programmes do not contain anything "which offends against good taste and decency". It is unfortunate that Parliament appears to leave it up to the broadcasters themselves to decide what is or is not indecent or distasteful; but Mr Gynge seems to be showing more responsibility than many other broadcasters.

He is only doing what Parliament requires all broadcasters to do, and he should be congratulated.

Yours faithfully,
L. TAYLOR,
12 Bransby Street,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
January 5.

From Mr Tony Robinson

Sir, What has the country come to when a minister of the Crown, the Heritage Secretary, appears to endorse the right of a television executive to make moral choices for the rest of us? Even the Archbishop of Canterbury does not enjoy such power.

Television executives should show a proper level of humility and stick to making commercial judgments. They can safely leave the rest of us to exercise moral judgments by use of the on/off button.

Sincerely,
TONY ROBINSON,
6 Clos du Berge,
Auderghem, 1160 Brussels,
January 4.

Weekend Money letters, page 41

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Harmonious future beckons for books and the Internet

From the Minister for Science and Technology

Sir, Simon Jenkins's praise for the book and the written word ("No plug, no wires, no rivals", January 4) could have been credible without the need to attack electronic communications. They are complementary. Those who enjoy information on paper should rejoice in the ability to access vast libraries of ideas at any time through the Internet.

Apart from contributing to improvement in the quality of life, an understanding of how to make full use of electronic superhighways at school, at home, in voluntary groups, in our public services and at work is critical for our ability to compete in the global economy. This is why the Government has launched the Information Society Initiative, with separate but co-ordinated activities involving all the relevant departments.

As part of this, the information technology campaign ("IT for All"), announced on December 3, will work with private companies and voluntary groups from diverse sectors to give more people hands-on experience of modern information and communications technologies. Nearly 30 companies are already signed up, with many more expressing interest in being part of what must be the world's first such awareness campaign.

Government does have a positive role, but "IT for All" is private-sector led. Simon Jenkins's concern about Treasury subsidy is misplaced, though we have announced the creation, as soon as current Millennium Commission commitments allow, of a new information and communication technology fund of up to £300 million a year from lottery proceeds. This will certainly assist in broadening access to the Information Society.

Yours faithfully,
IAN TAYLOR,
Department of Trade and Industry,
1 Victoria Street, SW1,
January 4.

Elgin Marbles, from ornament to art

From Dr Ian Jenkins

Sir, Professor Robert Browning (letter, January 6) admits failure to understand an important point succinctly made in your leading article, "No Elgin, no marbles", of December 21 (see also letters, December 28). May I suggest the reason is his not distinguishing between the intermittent European regard for the Parthenon sculptures prior to Elgin, and the storm of interest aroused by their eventual arrival in London.

Removal of the sculptures from the Parthenon broke with the antiquarian tradition of visual record-making that Browning traces back to Cyriac of Ancona. From then on the sculptures would be viewed not only as temple ornaments but also as art objects.

At a time when understanding of Greek classical style was undergoing radical revision, the Elgin Marbles were placed at the centre of an artistic

and philosophical debate. The inquiry of the Parliamentary Select Committee deliberating in 1815 on the acquisition of the Marbles for the nation served as a catalyst for that debate. The committee's report is one of the most remarkable and important art-historical documents of the age, confirming the role the Marbles would henceforth enjoy as paradigms of complementary Neo-classical and Romantic artistic values.

The modern European identity of the sculptures was forged in the Enlightenment culture of Elgin's day, and cannot be understood without acknowledging this fact.

Further reorganisations will come into effect in April 1997 and April 1998, involving many more councils. It is already apparent that even where joint arrangements can be agreed, these are likely to be very short-term (three or five years at most), adding considerable uncertainty to the future security of these services.

The situation would be improved significantly if the next Government were to make archives services a statutory function of local authorities.

Many local authorities have provided excellent archives services for decades; they are now seriously under threat as a result of government neglect and underfunding.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS KINGSLEY, Secretary,
The National Council on Archives,
9 Windsor Street, Pittville,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
January 2.

Imperilled archives

From the Secretary of the National Council on Archives

Sir, Simon Towneley (letter, December 31) rightly expresses concern about the impact of local government reorganisation on the fragile network of county archive services in England. The Government's refusal to build any safeguards for the survival of these key storehouses of our local and national history into the reorganisation legislation for England, when some safeguards were provided in the equivalent measures for Scotland and Wales, is inexplicable.

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Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS KINGSLEY, Secretary,
The National Council on Archives,
9 Windsor Street, Pittville,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
January 2.

Monarchy debate

From Mr Mark Damazer

Sir, The Carlton Television programme on the monarchy (letters, January 9 and 10) should not be regarded as the first major television debate on the subject.

BBC's transmitting a one-hour edition of *You Decide with Pannan* in August last year. Two million people watched. There was a phone-in poll leading up to the programme to decide which proposition, pro-monarchy or republican, should be subject to close scrutiny, and a brief phone-in vote at the end to glean a response from the audience.

We do not pretend that our polls spoke for the nation, but the second of our two votes interestingly indicated support for continuing with a monarchical system of government at about the same level as Tuesday night's poll.

Yours faithfully,
MARK DAMAZER (Head of Weekly Programmes, BBC News),
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Television Centre, Wood Lane, W12.

A Shropshire double

From Miss Christine Long

Sir, There is a pleasing symmetry, and surely a rare coincidence, in learning from the two main reports on your front page today that Oswestry in Shropshire is both the birthplace of Richard Branson's balloon, which subsequently came down, and home to BT's centre for last night's phone-in polls, recording that the popularity of the monarchy has gone up.

Yours faithfully,
C. M. LONG,
29 Heath View, N2,
January 8.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 10: The Princess Royal today visited Heilmann, Messer, Frankfurt GmbH, Ludwig-Erd-Analyse, Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Thompson

A Memorial Service to commemorate the life and work of Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Thompson, KBE, FENG, will be held at noon on Friday, January 11, in Bath Abbey.

Appointment

Mr Michael Cook to be High Commissioner to Uganda in succession to Mr Edward Clay who will be moving to a new appointment.

Service dinners

RNR Public Affairs Branch
Rear-Admiral Jeremy Blackburn, Admiral President, Royal Naval College, Greenwich, was the principal guest at the annual Royal Naval Reserve Public Affairs Branch dinner held last night at the college. Commodore Barry Leighton, Director of Public Relations Royal Navy, was the host. The Commodore and the Director of the Royal Naval Reserves and the Press Secretary and Chief of Information to the Ministry of Defence were among the guests.

G Battery HAC
General Sir Martin Farndale was the principal guest at a dinner given by veteran members of G Battery HAC last night at the Army House to mark the 50th anniversary of the battery's foundation. Colonel Graeme Gilchrist presided. Major Sir Thomas Skyrme, the first battery commander, was present.

Anniversaries this weekend are on the facing page

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr Graham Allen, MP, 44; the Right Rev J.A. Baker, former Bishop of Salisbury, 69; Mr J. Rashleigh Belcher, thoracic surgeon, 80; Sir Alan Bowmes (fide peer), 69; Sir Robin Carford, civil servant, 74; Mr Henry Cecil, racehorse trainer, and Mr David Cecil, racehorse breeder, 54; Mr Neville Duke, former test pilot, 75; Mr A.A. Gray, former chairman, Wellesbourne Foundation, 85; Mr Brian Moore, rugby player, 35; Sir Alastair Morton, former chairman, Eurorunnal, 59; Lord Newton, 47; Sir Anthony Nutting, former MP, 77; Mr Jim Pettis, Governor, Wornwood, 58; Mr Bryan Robson, football manager, 40; Sir Keith Warburton, former MP, 75; Mr Arthur Scargill, trade unionist, 59; Mr John Sessions, actor and comedian, 44; Air Commodore Joy Tamplin, former director, WRAF, 71; Mr R.C. Tress, former Master, Birkbeck College, 82.

TOMORROW: Miss Kirstie Alley, actress, 42; Mr Anthony Andrews, actor, 49; Mr Michael Aspel, broadcaster, 64; Sir Charles Bell, company director, 73; Lord Boardman, 78; Mr P.W. Botha, former President of South Africa, 81; Sir James Botomeley, former dip-



Jason Connery, the actor, is 34 today; Des O'Connor, the entertainer, will be 65 tomorrow

lomat, 77; the Hon Sir Richard Butler, former president, NFU, 68; Dame Fiona Caldicott, Principal, Somerville College, Oxford, 56; Lady Cosgrove, 76; the Hon Sir David Eccles, 80; Mr Keith Dawson, former Headmaster, Haberdashers' Aske's School, 60; Mr Brendan Foster, athlete, 49; Mr Joe Frazier, boxer, 53; Baroness Hamwee, 50; Baroness Hilton of Eggardon, 61; Miss Anne Howells, singer, 56; Lord Justice McCowan, 69; Mr Denis Milne, former managing director, BP Oil, 71; Mr James Mortimer, former general secretary, Labour Party, 76; the Very Rev Dr John Moss, Dean of St Paul's, 59; Sir John Rennie, former Governor-General, Mauritius, 80; Sir Terence Swinton, diplomat, 67; Lord Justice Swinton, 66; Mr Peter Wilson, theatrical producer, 46.

Marriage

Mr J.E. Hodson and Miss T.M. Stenhouse
The marriage took place on Saturday, January 4, at St Mary's Church, Tysoe, of Mr James Edmund Hodson, to Miss Taniene Melchior Stenhouse.

School news

Mill Hill School Foundation
Term started on January 7. Mrs L. Duncan joins Belmont, Mill Hill Junior School, as Head of the Upper School. The Senior Monitor is Matthew Price. The Prestige Lecture will be given on Monday, February 10, by Baroness Cox. Term ends on March 26. A reunion of all pupils at Mill Hill School from 1970-80 will be held on Old Millbush Day, Sunday, June 22. Further details can be obtained from the Headmaster's Secretary.

Bowyers' Company

The Lord Mayor yesterday attended a service of thanksgiving to mark the restoration of the Church of St. Paul's-without-the-Bishopgate. During the service the Bishop of London dedicated a new stained glass window presented by the Bowyers' Company. The Master and Clerk of the Bowyers' Company were present.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.P. Burdon and Miss H.F. Don
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Burdon, of Harworth, South Yorkshire, and Henrietta, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Don, of North Elmham, Norfolk.

Mr J.M. Meeson and Miss N.J. Graham
The engagement is announced between Jeremy Mark Anthony, son of Dr and Mrs Andrew Meeson, of Hampstead, London, and Nicola Jane, daughter of Mr Simon Graham, of Eversgreen, QVC, and Mrs Jean Graham, of Malborough, Devon.

Mr C.J. Finn and Miss S.J. Greenwood
The engagement is announced between Crispin, younger son of the late Mr Michael Finn and of Mrs Michael Finn, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Sarah, only daughter of the late Colonel and Mrs. Bernard Greenwood, of Brixworth, Northamptonshire.

Mr D.B.M. Fox and Miss S. Schumann
The engagement is announced between Dominic, elder son of Mr and Mrs Barry Fox, of Jenningsbury, Hereford, and Silke, only daughter of Herr and Frau Wolfgang Schumann, of Lohne, Germany.

2nd Lieutenant A.J. Holland, RAMC, and Miss S.N. Stenhouse
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Holland, of Harworth, South Yorkshire, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Stenhouse, of Brussels, Belgium.

Mr N.E.L. Holmes and Miss K.M. Sheriff
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr Peter Holmes and the late Mrs Diana Holmes, of Shotesham, Norfolk, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Mark Sheriff, of Blandford, Dorset.

Mr A.J. Howard and Miss A.R.S. Godfrey
The engagement is announced between Alex, son of Group Captain and Mrs Richard Howard, of Kington, Hampshire, and Anna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Guy Godfrey, of Pishill, Oxfordshire.

Mr R.B. Hurlford Clark and Miss L.M. Gerada-Azupard
The engagement is announced between Robert Benjamin, son of Mr Timothy Hurlford Clark, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, and Mrs Pearl (Tidley) Morrison, of Toller Royal, Wiltshire, and Mrs Gerada-Azupard, of London SW15 and Malta.

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Church services tomorrow

First Sunday after Epiphany

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OBITUARIES

HARMAN GRISEWOOD

Harman Grisewood, CBE, a former Controller of the Third Programme and Chief Assistant to the Director-General of the BBC, 1955-64, died on January 8 aged 90. He was born on February 8, 1906.

Harman Grisewood, a cousin of the probably better known broadcaster, Freddie Grisewood of *Any Questions?* fame, began his own broadcasting career by reading extracts from Walter Scott for *Children's Hour*. He subsequently became the right-hand man to two successive, and contrasting, directors-general.

As much as anyone below the highest ranks of the BBC, he helped to shape the future of British broadcasting after the war. He was in at the birth of the Third Programme, was its second Controller and later, under the title of Director of the Spoken Word, occupied one of the most absurd-sounding, if influential, posts within the BBC. When television increased in importance he served as the main channel of communication between the politicians and the broadcasters and was at the centre of the battle between Eden and the BBC at the time of Suez.

Harman Joseph Gerard Grisewood was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Harman Grisewood of the 4th Hussars and owner of a 13th-century house in Oxfordshire. The family background, however, was less traditional than this might suggest. His mother was descended from an ancient Mediterranean family, with roots in Naples, Sicily and Malta and, like her husband, was a devout Roman Catholic. The family chapel, where Grisewood acted as server throughout his boyhood, was the centre of the household, and he retained a deeply religious man throughout his life.

He was educated at Ampleforth and won a history scholarship to Worcester College, Oxford. At university he was, at best, a casual scholar. When asked about his academic record he would reply: "I was an OUDS man." He played the lead in productions of *Henry IV* and *King Lear* and his beautiful speaking voice was responsible for his introduction to broadcasting.

Invited, while in his first job working at Fortnum & Mason in Piccadilly, to visit the BBC's old radio studios at Savoy Hill, he was told that somebody was needed immediately for *Children's Hour*. He was given a copy of *Ivanhoe*, a red light went on, he read for a while, a hand waved languidly and he stopped. He was handed three guineas in an envelope and, having been given hopes of further employment, resigned from Fortnum & Mason the next day. Apart from a short period helping his father in an unsuccessful housing project in Cyprus, and a temporary resignation in 1947, he was a BBC man for the next 35 years.



After *Children's Hour* he graduated to serious acting, appearing in the BBC Rep with players of the stature of John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson and Peggy Ashcroft. Then he became an announcer before promotion to programme planning.

The BBC was more flexible in those days and when Pius XI died in 1939 Grisewood, as an Italian-speaking Catholic, was dispatched to Rome to cover the papal election. Cardinal Hinsley, an old friend, introduced Grisewood to the conclave as his "bedmaker" which gave him an advantage over his rivals. But when he emerged from the broadcasting cubicle marked "UK" a Vatican engineer informed him that in fact he had been connected to a circuit for Bulgaria. Nobody in Britain heard a word.

He spent the war at Bush House as assistant to Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, the Controller of European Services, fighting the propaganda war against the enemy on the Continent and fighting the departmental war against the Political Warfare Executive at Woburn Abbey. Pessimistic about his postwar prospects, and disappointed at not having been made head of European

Services, he left the corporation in 1947 but was shortly afterwards persuaded to return as planner for the exciting new Third Programme and as assistant to its first Controller, Sir George Barnes. When Barnes was promoted, Grisewood succeeded him. He followed Barnes again in the splendidly old-fashioned role of Director of the Spoken Word. His responsibilities here included news, religion, talks and education.

Then, in 1955, he was appointed chief assistant to the Director-General, then Sir Ian Jacob (though he continued under Sir Hugh Greene), having to bear the increasing pressures which political parties were placing on the BBC as the importance of broadcasting, particularly television, became more and more appreciated.

The most difficult time was Suez. The Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, believed that the operation was a national commitment and should not be questioned. The broadcasters' view was that it was not a national war, as in 1914 or 1939, and that it was their duty to report any opinions which were important enough to affect the outcome. Grisewood always maintained

that throughout the whole affair, from July to November 1956, Eden's aim was secrecy and the BBC's was enlightenment. His opinion naturally found no favour at No 10. In his autobiography *One Thing at a Time* (1968) he even claimed to have been told by William Clark, Eden's press secretary, that the BBC's policy had led the Prime Minister to ask the Lord Chancellor, Lord Kilmer, to prepare a legal instrument to take it over. This dramatic tale was subsequently challenged — and, though Grisewood certainly told the story in good faith, it seems that Clark (who resigned from his post at No 10 the moment the Suez operation was halted) may have piled things on a bit — a habit to which he was not a total stranger.

An equally contentious — though this time totally authenticated — episode occurred over whether Hugh Gaiskell, the Leader of the Opposition, could be allowed a reply to a ministerial broadcast delivered by Eden. The two major parties disagreed as to whether the Prime Minister's broadcast had been sufficiently controversial. To Labour the right of reply seemed simple justice. To the Government it appeared as a stab-in-the-back to British troops, by now landed in Port Said. With the Director-General Sir Ian Jacob away in Australia, it fell largely to Grisewood to interpret the BBC's rules in favour of Gaiskell being granted the right of reply.

But he did so in such a bureaucratic manner — insisting that the proper procedures were followed (even though Gaiskell wanted to broadcast the very next night) — that he caused the Leader of the Opposition great anger. Paradoxically, as things worked out, Gaiskell would probably have been better off had he been kept off the screen: though eloquent, his TV address proved to be a grave political mistake. All it achieved was to reunite the ranks of the Conservative Party. In a moment of astonishing naivety Gaiskell appealed to all the anti-Suez Tory dissidents to join the Labour Party in getting rid of the Prime Minister — thus ensuring that no such thing could immediately occur.

Having successfully seen through the not altogether easy transition between Sir Ian Jacob and Sir Hugh Greene, Grisewood retired from the BBC in 1964 (he had been appointed CBE in 1960). He then worked briefly on *The Times*, then under the editorship of his old BBC chief, Sir William Haley.

After leaving the BBC he served on various official bodies, including the Younger Committee on Privacy and the Lord Chancellor's Committee on Defamation. In retirement in Suffolk he wrote, in addition to his autobiography, two undistinguished novels. He is survived by his wife, from whom he was separated, and by their daughter.

JOAN KNIGHT

Joan Knight, OBE, theatrical director and former artistic administrator of Perth Repertory Theatre, died on December 20 aged 72. She was born on September 27, 1924.

ONE of Scotland's most energetic theatrical directors, Joan Knight will always have her name linked with the Perth Repertory Theatre, which she ran with a sort of benign dictatorship from 1968 to 1992. It is probably true to say that Perth would not now have an acclaimed theatre if it had not been for her tireless commitment.

Joan Mary Knight was born into an untheatrical family in Preston, Lancashire, and left school at the age of 15 to take on a rather dull job in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. During the war she worked in the Women's Land Army. She was introduced to theatre through the local amateur dramatic society, where she is best remembered for a remarkable production of Christopher Fry's *The Lady's Not for Burning*. The society at the time was more used to drawing-room comedies and the occasional Noël Coward.

She next attended the Bristol Old Vic School for an administrative course, after which she was engaged in stage management until given an opportunity to direct — coincidentally at Perth — in the early 1950s.

She spent the next few years either directing or helping to save a succession of theatres whose financial position was perilous. She worked in Whitby, Keswick and various Midlands towns until she became artistic director of the Castle Theatre, Farnham, for four years, ran the Ludlow Festival for three years and was director of productions at Pitlochry.

When she was given the job as artistic director of the Perth Rep in 1968 the theatre was in

crisis. Audiences were poor, the choice of plays unimaginative and the finances dire. Thanks to her, today the Perth Rep has been enlarged and refurbished, a rehearsal room built and a decent restaurant created.

But it was in her choice of plays, writers and directors that her eye was seen to best effect. She encouraged young directors to join her as an assistant in Scotland. These included Clive Perry (at Farnham), Mike Oakrent, Patrick Sandford (now at Southampton), Ken Alexander (the Byre Theatre at St Andrew's) and Andrew McKinnon (her successor at Perth).

She was always keen to



work with young actors (she directed the young Michael Crawford at the Royal Court in 1963). She came to London for Equity meetings (she was a member of its council for many years) and directed several revivals of *The Mousetrap* for Sir Peter Saunders.

She was offered positions with both the Royal Court and the National Theatre which she refused to take up — the latter much to Lord Olivier's consternation. "I have given my word to the directors in Perth and, besides, perhaps a career in London, with all those egos, might have turned me into someone not quite as nice to know," she commented.

Of her many productions in Perth three stand out. In 1991 she produced, directed and oversaw *Peace Child*. It was her brainchild and an administrative challenge. One hundred children from 12 countries invaded Perth and rehearsed for a fortnight and performed just nine times (all sold out immediately). The children (teenagers from Jordan and Israel stood next to each other on the stage) were lodged in local homes and the production was a triumph not only for Knight's theatrical flair but also for her ability to get things done with a minimum of fuss and through sheer force of personality. As a result of this venture Perth was voted Top Twin Town of 1991.

In 1985 she directed Rikki Fulton and Denise Coffey's *A Few Touches of Class* (an adaptation of Molière's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*) which won them in the lead roles broke box-office records in Perth before becoming a star attraction of the Edinburgh Festival. It is due to be revived at the Pitlochry Festival.

Her last production at Perth was *Shadowlands*, the tear-jerker about C. S. Lewis, based on his book *Surprised by Joy*. To grace her swansong to the theatre she had guided for so many years, she had assembled a distinguished Scottish cast.

After her retirement she continued to direct, not least a production of James Bridie's *Mr Boffin* in Russia. Her final production — its last stages overseen by Clive Perry — was of that play (it opened when she was in hospital) at last year's Pitlochry Festival.

Knight loved people, especially children. Her infectious laugh could break the ice of the most tense moments at rehearsal and she had an enduring ability to entertain and enjoy her guests' company. She was appointed OBE in 1985 — a true Lillian Baylis of the North.

Joan Knight never married.

CANON JOHN CORNWALL

Canon John Cornwall, mission priest, died on December 31 aged 96. He was born on April 24, 1900.

JOHN CORNWALL was one of the last old-style English missionaries, whose role in 20th-century Africa was to lay the religious and educational bases upon which Africans could then build and develop their own Christian churches and schools. He brought to his missionary work in Tanganyika (now Tanzania) a sense of duty and discipline which stemmed partly from a decade spent in the Royal Artillery in the 1920s. But his work as a priest was also characterised by an infectious sense of life as an adventure.

This was shown during his military career when in 1928 — as a trainee surveyor — he agreed to form part of a small expedition sent out by the Royal Geographical Society to East Africa to chart and map the region of the Kalambo Falls.

John Whitmore Cornwall was born in a rambling vicarage in Thornbury near the banks of the Severn. His father Alan Whitmore Cornwall — sometime Archdeacon of Cheltenham — noted in his diary on the day of his birth "cuckoo" and, as an afterthought, "second son, fifth child, born".

He was rather a timid child, whose schooling at the parsons' sons' school of St John's, Leatherhead, was not a very happy experience. With the outbreak of the First World War he determined to follow his brother Alan and become a soldier.

He trained at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, gained a commission, and his first posting in 1919 was to the 2nd Brigade (Royal Field Artillery) in Ireland. Although he deliberately chose this as

"good hunting country", his service there, during the civil war, had its dangers. At one point he formed part of a unit set up to try to ambush Michael Collins. In 1922 the 2nd Brigade's title was transferred to a brigade in India.

In 1926 he joined the Survey Company of the Royal Artillery on Salisbury Plain and it was with this experience under his belt that he was chosen in 1928 to join a Royal Geographical Society expedition to East Africa.

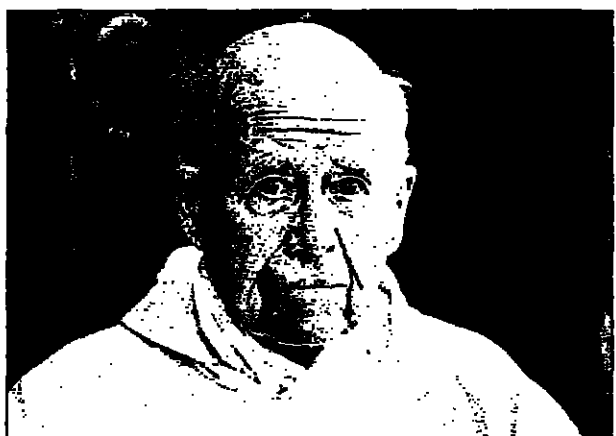
Cornwall had already decided to resign his commission in order to train for the priesthood, and he now resolved to follow his sister Frances, who had joined the Universities Mission to Central Africa (UMCA). He trained at Cuddesdon and, after a curacy in Streatham, was sent by UMCA to Masasi, Tanganyika.

Cornwall immediately fell under the firm but gentle guidance of Vincent Lucas, first Bishop of Masasi. In contrast to missionaries of an earlier period, Lucas was highly sensitive to African local customs and he was a pioneer in Christianising the initiation rites of the local tribes in this part of Africa. Lucas instructed his new pupil

in the local customs and sent him out on a bicycle to inspect schools and take services around the vast diocese. He also accompanied him on many safaris to map the diocese (the previous German maps had proved inaccurate). Fluent in Swahili, Cornwall was to stay 21 years at Masasi, acting as priest-in-charge of parishes extending for fifty miles, administering the cathedral and serving at times as headmaster of St Joseph's College, Chidya.

He brought his missionary zeal back to England in 1955 when he married Benita West, who had served as a UMCA missionary in Masasi from 1950. Together at Minchinhampton from 1959 to 1972, they built up a parish life which was acknowledged as a model of spirituality and enthusiasm throughout the Gloucester diocese. The rectory there was "open house" to all. In 1969 he was made an honorary canon of Gloucester.

Retiring in 1972, he remained a tireless assistant priest in Stroud until his 96th year. He was also a fine watercolour artist and his best works were landscapes painted during his time in Africa. He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.



BURTON LANE

Burton Lane, Broadway and Hollywood composer, died on January 5 aged 84. He was born on February 2, 1912.

BURTON LANE was one of the neglected songwriters of his generation. Friend to George Gershwin, discoverer of Judy Garland, he also wrote such haunting Broadway melodies as *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever* and *How to Succeed in Show Business*.

Lyricists of the calibre of Yip Harburg, Alan Jay Lerner, Frank Loesser and Ira Gershwin queued up to work with him, and appreciated the consistency of his work. Theatre lights on Broadway were dimmed at the news of his death. But the sad truth was that for many years his contribution to popular musical theatre had been overlooked.

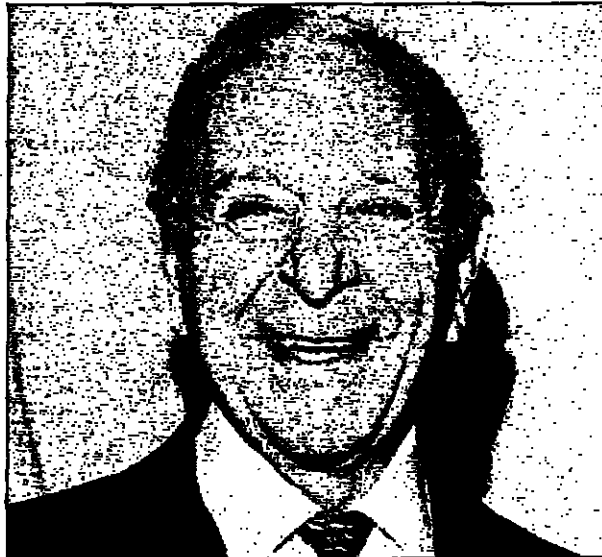
Burton Lane was born Burton Levy, the son of a New York real estate agent and a piano-playing mother. He left school at 15 to join composers in Tin Pan Alley. It was George Gershwin who nurtured his potential.

His family was spending a holiday in Atlantic City, and stayed in a modest boarding house which housed a piano. Lane was working out a showy version of his favourite Gershwin tune — *Swonderful* — when by coincidence he was overheard by Rose Gersh-

win, George and Ira's mother. Rose took him to meet George, and Lane stunned the composer with his new arrangement. After that, Gershwin benevolently sought out teachers for the boy. Lane's first tunes to be performed in public were in the 1930 revue *Three's a Crowd*.

In 1933 Lane made the trip to Hollywood. Again by extreme good fortune he found himself at the right dinner party two days after arriving, and the following morning was invited to David O. Selznick's office to try out a few songs. Joan Crawford, who was looking for a new ballad for *Dancing Lady*, was also called in and immediately loved Lane's *Everything I Have Is Yours*. This — Lane's first film song — was nominated for an Oscar that year. After this promising start, work for Paramount during the 1930s became an ordeal for Lane.

But there were lighter moments, one in 1934 when he discovered an 11-year-old named Frances Gumm singing with her sisters between pictures in an obscure downtown movie theatre. Baby Gumm (as Judy Garland was then professionally known) was belting numbers out, and Lane could not believe what he was hearing. The following day he arranged to have her auditioned at MGM, and she sang *Zing Went the Strings of My Heart* over and over again



for ten hours, while a stream of stunned music executives were called in. Garland maintained that she owed Lane "everything".

Lane shuttled to and from Broadway writing the music for Al Jolson's last stage musical *Hold on to Your Hats* (1939) and to *Girl in the Street* (1941). *I Like New York in June*, *How about You?*, with lyrics by Ralph Freed, was Garland's showstopper in that production and was later recorded by Frank Sinatra.

In 1947 Lane teamed up with the lyricist Yip Harburg for *Finian's Rainbow*, based

on an unlikely story about a leprechaun and a bigoted Southern senator, which ran on Broadway for 725 performances. *How are Things in Glocca Morra?* (a tune which, ironically, Harburg had to persuade Lane was good enough to be included), became an instant radio favourite, recorded by Bing Crosby. *Of Devil Moon*, the same show, achieved popularity more slowly, though it was quickly taken up by jazz musicians who had always liked Lane's slightly avant-garde style. Because Harburg was blacklisted, the film version, starring Petula Clark

and Fred Astaire, did not appear until 1968.

After that triumph, more films followed for Lane. *Royal Wedding* (1951), to his delight, gave him a chance to work with Alan Jay Lerner. They jointly received an Oscar for their *Too Late Now* in that film.

Despite Lerner's alarming habit of disappearing for days in the middle of work, Lane teamed up with him again in 1965 for *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*, a musical about a young woman with extraordinary perception. The musical was not such a success as *Finian's Rainbow* but the title song was much admired.

That was Lane's last big hit, though he continued to hope for a Broadway comeback. Some were included on an album he recorded with Michael Feinstein (Ira Gershwin's old musical secretary), which helped to rekindle interest in his music in 1990. Modesty was probably his greatest professional handicap. Lane never considered himself in the same league as Gershwin, Cole Porter or Irving Berlin. "There haven't been four years of music created in the last 15 years that could compare to what George Gershwin threw away," he recently said.

He is survived by his second wife Lynn, a daughter from his first marriage, and three stepdaughters.

Anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS: 11 Parmigianino, painter, Parma, Italy, 1503; Alexander Hamilton, American statesman, Nevis, West Indies, 1755; Sir Charles Hastings, physician, founder of the British Medical Association, Ludlow, 1794; Sir John Macdonald, Prime Minister of Canada 1867-73 and 1878-91, Glasgow, 1815; William James, psychologist, New York, 1842; George Curzon, Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy of India 1898-1905, Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, 1859; Harry Gordon Selfridge, founder of the London store, Ripon, Wisconsin, 1864; Alan Stewart Paton, writer, Pietermaritzburg, 1903.

DEATHS: Domenico Ghirlandajo, historian, London, 1494; Cardinal Pedro González de Mendoza, prelate and statesman, Spain, 1495; Sir Hans Sloane, physician and collector, London, 1753; Louis François Roubiliac, sculptor, London, 1762; Domenico Cimarosa, composer, Venice, 1801; Friedrich von Schlegel, philosopher and historian, Dresden, 1829; Francis Scott Key, poet, Baltimore, 1843; Georges Eugène Haussmann, architect who replanned Paris, Paris, 1891; Thomas Hardy, novelist and poet, Dorchester, 1928; Caradoc Evans, writer, Aberystwyth, 1945; Hugh Gaiskell, leader of the Labour Party 1955-63, London, 1963; Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Prime Minister of India 1964-66, Tashkent, 1966; Alberto Giacometti, sculptor, Chur, Switzerland, 1966; Richard Crumpton, author, 1969; Padraic Colum, poet, Enfield, Connecticut, 1972.

Charting Cross station was opened, London, 1864. Insulin first used successfully in the treatment of diabetes, 1922. King Zog of Albania was deposed, 1946. The Open University awarded its first degrees, 1973.

TOMORROW BIRTHS: Jean Baptiste van Helmont, chemist, Brussels, 1580; John Winthrop, Puritan and 1st Governor of Massachusetts, Groton, Suffolk, 1588; Lazzaro Spallanzani, chemist, Modena, Italy, 1729; Edmund Burke, statesman, Dublin, 1729; Johann Pestalozzi, educator, Zurich, 1746; John Singer Sargent, portrait painter, Florence, 1856; Sir Charles Oman, historian, Muzaffarpur, India, 1860; Jack London, novelist, San Francisco, 1876;

Ferenc Molnár, dramatist, Budapest, 1878; Curbastion Gregorio Ricci, mathematician, Italy, 1883; Hermann Goering, Nazi war criminal, Bavaria, 1893; Georges Carpentier, boxer, Calais, 1894. DEATHS: Luca Giordano, painter, Naples, 1705; George Froster, explorer, Paris, 1794; Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of a shorthand system, Bath, 1897; Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, 1976. The British-Zulu War began, 1879. The London Co-op opened the first supermarket in London at Manor Park, 1948. A Boeing 747 (jumbo) jet landed at Heathrow airport after its maiden transatlantic flight from New York, 1970.

JAMESON'S RAID

"Wrong! Is it wrong? Well, may be. But I'm going, boys, all the same. Do they think me a Burgher's baby. To be scared by a scolding name? They may argue, and prate, and order: Go, tell them to save their breath! Then, over the Transvaal border, And gallop for life or death!"

"Let lawyers and statesmen addle Their paws over points of law: If sound be our sword, and saddle, And gun-gear, who cares one straw? When men of our own blood pray us To ride to their kinsfolk's aid, Not Heaven itself shall stay us From the rescue they call a raid."

"There are girls in the gold-reef city, There are mothers and children too And they cry, 'Hurry up for pity! So what can a brave man do? If even we win, they'll blame us. If we fail, they will howl and hiss. But there's many a man lives famous For daring a wrong like this!"

"So we forced and galloped forward, As hard as our beasts could pelt, First eastward: then trending northward,

ON THIS DAY

January 11, 1896

The Jameson Raid against the Boers was a humiliating fiasco. However, to mark it The Times paid £25 to the worst Post Laureate for his worst poem: its jingoism appealed to the public and there were calls for reprints — even requests that it be set to music.

Right over the rolling veldt; Till we came on the Burghers lying In a hollow with hills behind, And their bullets came hissing, flying, Like hail on an Arctic wind!

"Right sweet is the marksman's rattle, And sweeter the cannon's roar, But 'tis bitterly bad to battle, Besieged, and one to four. I can tell you, it wasn't a trifle To swarm over Krugersdorp plain, As they pined us with round and rifle, And ploughed us, again — and again."

VI. "Then we made for the gold-reef city, Retreating, but not in rout. They had called us 'Quick for pity' And He said, 'They will rally out. They will hear us and come. Who doubts it? But how if they don't, what then? Well, worry no more about it. But fight to the death, like men.'"

VII. "Not a soul had or supposed or slumbered Since the Borderland scene was clef: But we fought, ever more outnumbered, Till we had not a cartridge left. We're not very soft or tender, Or given to weep for loss, But it breaks one to have to render One's sword to the strongest foe."

VIII. "I suppose we were wrong, were madmen, Still I think at the Judgment Day, When God sifts the good from the bad men, There'll be something more to say. We were wrong, but we aren't half sorry, And, as one of the baffled band, I would rather have had that foray Than the crushings of all the Rand."

ALFRED AUSTIN
Swinford Old Manor, Jan 9.

NEWS

£200 plan for pet passports

Pets could soon accompany their owners on holiday abroad under government proposals to relax the world's toughest quarantine rules with a £200 rabies check.

The new control would apply only to animals travelling from "isolated, rabies-free countries" and they would have to be fitted with a microchip proving that they had been vaccinated. Page 1

Minister condemns 'begging Scots'

David Maclean, the Home Office Minister, caused a storm when he declared that most beggars were Scots and that they were on the streets through choice. Mr Maclean, the rightwing Scots-born MP for Perth and the Border, said there was no justification for begging. Page 1

Archbishop's praise

The Archbishop of York has praised Britain's achievements and urged the country to focus on its successes. Pages 1, 2

Patient 'was chained'

The Prison Service launched an inquiry into why a man was chained to his bed by his leg and arms until three hours before he died in a hospice. Page 1

Opera economy

The Royal Opera House says it may be forced to scrap its reduced-price matinee performances for schools because it cannot afford them. Page 3

Shipwreck success

It was dawn on Tony Bullimore that getting shipwrecked was the most fortuitous mistake he had ever made. Page 5

Paedophile expelled

A paedophile was moved after demonstrators besieged the hotel where he was staying. Page 7

Top and bottom of picking the lottery

One of the great mysteries of modern life has been resolved by two academics: how people choose their lottery numbers. The dominant influence is the design of the lottery form. The most popular numbers are near the centre and those with least appeal are on the edges and bottom. Page 4

Population slow-down

World population growth is slowing for the first time, excluding the Black Death and the Great War flu epidemic. Page 10

Election hint

John Major, speaking in India, gave his clearest indications yet that he is aiming to call a general election on May 1. Pages 2, 15

Tough bank

Europe's future central bank laid down a tough German-style approach to ensuring the purity of the single currency. Page 18

Turkish threat

Turkey renewed its threat to launch pre-emptive strikes against Cyprus if it goes ahead with its purchase of missiles. Page 19

Arab threat

Thousands of Islamic militants in the autonomous West Bank city of Nablus staged a rally and demanded another "big attack" against Jewish targets. Page 20

NATURE NOTES



OPINION

Gas and gaiters: Although politicians might be tempted to remind the Church that there should be a strict demarcation between God's dominion and Caesar's, the border is porous. Page 23

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Justice: Internet yacht rescues: monarchy. Page 23

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Bullimore and Branson have ventured and failed in style. They have performed the task the British expect of their 20th-century adventurers. They have taken on the world. Page 22

OBITUARIES

Harman Grisewood: Third Programme controller. Burton Lane, composer. Page 25

BUSINESS

Halfpence: 8.5 million members will receive shares worth an average £1,200 and up to £6,215 on flotation. Page 27

British Gas: said its three month results would be dominated by one-off costs totalling £841 million. Page 27

Argos: Shares fell after it warned the market about 1996 profits and said Christmas trading had not been as strong as expected. Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 30.4 to 4056.6. Sterling fell to 96.1 after falling from \$1.6935 to \$1.6810 and DM2.6688 to DM2.6635. Page 30

SPORTS

Tennis: Tim Henman defeated Goran Ivanisevic to reach the final of the Sydney tournament. Page 52

Football: Newcastle United are believed to have made a new offer to the former England manager Bobby Robson. Page 52

Racing: Alderbrook, winner of the Champion Hurdle in 1995, has been retired because of problems with his suspect legs. Page 47

Microcar: sale, written tests; battery sports cars. Page 47

CULTURE

Coliseum row: The lottery bonanza is over. English National Opera's bad luck is to arrive too late at the trough. All the grub has been gobbled. Page 21

Crown prince: The Russian clown Slava Polunin displays his virtuosity in a new West End entertainment. Page 21

Strindberg: Three late plays have been put together by the GatePage 21

Triumph: The conductor Antonio Pappano made a big impression in his LSO debut. Page 21

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Family life: To smooch or not to smooch? Page 13

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Robin: Chris O'Donnell

Poetry: Tobias Hall

Recommendations: What to read, watch and play

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Books: The bestsellers for bookworms. 7-12

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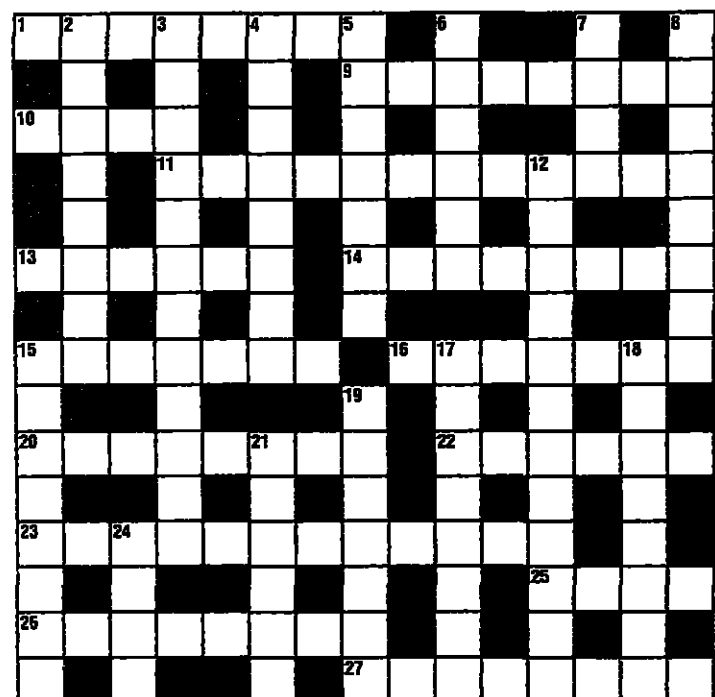
Food: Tried and tested. 46

What's on. 13-21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,374

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- ACROSS**
- 1 Forbid member supporting plucky player (5).
 - 9 Such parents had no conception of the issue involved (8).
 - 10 Muddled cordial (4).
 - 11 Deal with cash after split with former partner (4-8).
 - 13 Write about a male and a female bird (6).
 - 14 Dismiss a method to start making speech (4-4).
 - 15 Some importing that French type of flooring (7).
 - 16 Flow of quiz restricted by huzzar — two hands needed for it (7).
 - 20 He was arrested as a juvenile (5,3).
 - 22 A fraction of some freight hauled (6).
 - 23 I'd need a stick. I feel to sort out lower stream! (5-7).
 - 25 Just open a pint (4).
 - 26 The men in this study are unnaturally well-built (8).
 - 27 Heavy ref stirred up perennial complaint (3,5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,348

CATCHACRAB TOPS
O I O N U P
M O N O G A M I S T S T I R
B T H E W T R I
V E I L O V E R A G A I N
I H V U R K S G
M I N I S T E R D E F E C T
P R U P T B A R T I S E D
U I U B G F C E
O R B E N T U R E R O U X
E R G N O T B
N E O N M I L L I M E T R E
C O A M L A
E C H T I N A V E N T
R E D R A W F R I G H T E N
X E I O R R U
S P L A T T E R H E R I O R
E P W T M A S
I L A P D A S H C L I N C H
L E W E I G E
B E A R L I N H E E L
U L P L U M B A S O L
T L I E S T
T H R I V E B U T C H E R S
R O O E R O I
E Q U A T E I N Q U I T Y
S N A N N S C
S I D E L O N G G O E T H E

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: B A Macmillan, Sultan Coldfield, West Midlands; T Ailes, Walsley, West Yorkshire; M J Noakes, Lymington, Dorset; M Macdonald, Edinburgh; T Thomas, Weston-Super-Mare.

We regret that this year The Times will not run the annual Crossword Championship.

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UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410

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Wales 0336 401 744

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Continental Europe 0336 401 910

Channel crossing 0336 401 498

Motorway to Heathrow & Gatwick airports 0336 407 505

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Islands 0336 401 744

National Motorways 0336 401 744

Continental Europe 0336 401 910

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun sets: 5:23 pm

Moon sets: 4:15 pm

Moon rises: 7:48 pm

Moon sets: 9:09 am

TOMORROW

Sun sets: 5:23 pm

Moon sets: 4:17 pm

Moon rises: 9:08 pm

Moon sets: 9:42 am

HIGH TIDES

London: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Brighton: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Bournemouth: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Cardiff: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Edinburgh: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Glasgow: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Liverpool: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Manchester: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Newcastle: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Nottingham: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Sheffield: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Southampton: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Stirling: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Swansea: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Torquay: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

Wrexham: 11:52 am, 5:51 pm

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: 12°C, Lowest day temp: 4°C

Today: Highest day temp: 13°C, Lowest day temp: 5°C

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up of 40% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be generally cloudy. Rain or drizzle in the west will extend eastwards to all parts, with sleet or snow for a time, especially over higher ground where there could be appreciable falls in places. It will turn misty, with widespread hill fog.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy with rain spreading from the west. The rain will be heavy in the west, with further falls of snow over the higher ground. The rain will become light and patchy later with a good deal of mist and hill fog.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles, SW Eng, W Midlands, Wales, NW Eng, N. Dist, Cent N England.

NE England: cloudy with sleet or snow, turning to rain from west. Wind light to moderate, southeasterly. Max 3-5C (37-41F).

Isle of Man, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: sleet soon turning to rain on all but the highest ground. Winds fresh, locally strong, southerly. Max 6-8C (43-46F).

Border, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth: sleet and snow spreading from west, turning to rain at all but the highest levels. Wind fresh, south or southeast. Less cold, max 5-7C (41-45F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy with sleet or snow turning to rain and sleet to clear. Wind southeasterly, fresh to strong. Max 4-5C (39-41F).

Outlook: blustery winds in the north and west, most parts milder.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

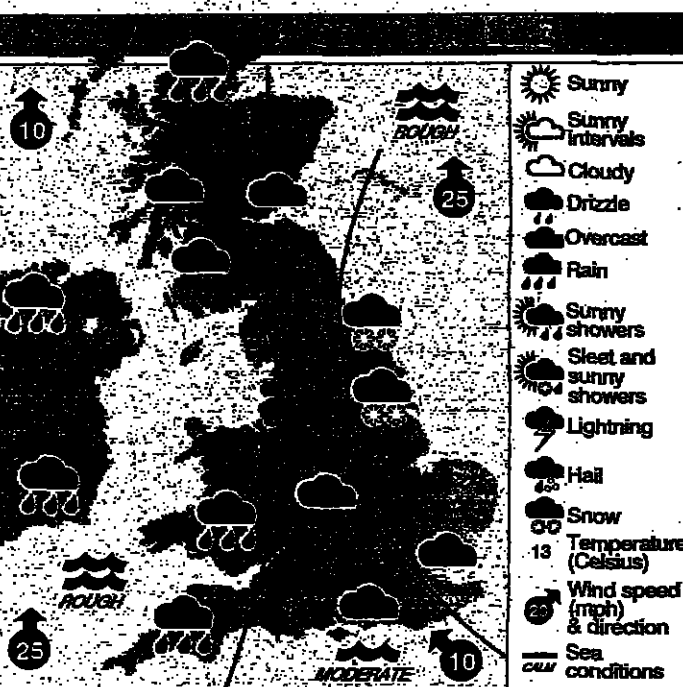
City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max
London	12	SW	Cloudy	Yes	15
Edinburgh	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
Glasgow	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
Belfast	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
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Manchester	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
Nottingham	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
Leeds	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
Birmingham	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
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Southampton	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
Bournemouth	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
Exeter	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
Cardiff	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
Sheffield	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
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Coventry	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
Southampton	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
Bournemouth	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13
Exeter	10	SW	Cloudy	Yes	13



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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1997

Shares bonanza for Halifax members

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY
AND ANNE ASHWORTH

THE 8.5 million members of the Halifax Building Society will receive free shares worth an average £1,290 and a maximum £6,215 when the society floats on the stock market in June, becoming the UK's fifth largest bank.

The highly complex process is the biggest conversion ever undertaken and will cost the society £413 million, or £46 for every borrower or saver.

The average payment to each member is 23 per cent more than analysts originally predicted, reflecting the recovery in the housing market and the favourable reception from the City. Halifax has 2.1 million investing members and two million borrowing members who will receive the minimum basic distribution of 200 free shares, worth between £780 and £900, depending on market conditions at the time of the float. Packs with conversion and voting details should reach members by post by January 22.

Investors with balances higher than £1,000 may qualify for an extra variable distribution, worth a maximum of between £4,606 and £5,315. To qualify for the variable shareout, members must have had a total balance of between £1,000 and £50,000 in share accounts at midnight on November 25, 1994, and midnight on February 24, 1997. Amounts above £50,000 will not be taken into account and the distribution will be calculated using the lower of the balances.

For Halifax members who are both investors and borrowers, the maximum payout will be worth between £5,385 and £6,215, comprising 1,181 savings shares and 230 borrowing shares. Shares will be priced at between 390p and 450p, giving Halifax a market value of between £10.4 billion and £12 billion. A mid-price of 420p a share would give an average basic distribution of £840 and value the society at £11.2 billion. Halifax becomes



Mike Blackburn, Halifax chief executive, yesterday with the transfer document detailing the free share distribution

the fifth largest bank after Lloyd's TSB (worth £24 billion), HSBC (£22.9 billion), Barclays (£16.3 billion) and NatWest Bank (£12.7 billion). Of the 8.5 million qualifying members, 4.6 million will receive both basic and variable distributions if they have at least £1,000 in their account on the two dates. The payment will be based on one share for every £50 in their account. If the lower total balance is less than £1,000 on either of the two qualifying dates, they will receive only the basic distribution.

Other members not allowed to vote — including those aged under 18 on February 24, 1997, and those with less than £100 in accounts on December 31,

DISTRIBUTION of the Halifax conversion documents will be the biggest single mailing handled by Royal Mail and will cost the Halifax up to £20 million. It involves 13 mailing houses and eight printing companies, approximately 60 per cent of the printing capacity of the UK. The 172-page document has used 5,000 tons of paper and will be delivered by 60 lorries (one every 25 minutes) non-stop over eight days. Members can vote by post or at a special meeting at Sheffield Arena on February 24.

1996 — will receive a statutory cash bonus of about 9.4 per cent of the total held in their accounts on the latter date. The Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock societies all plan to convert to banks this year, resulting in £20 billion worth of windfalls to 15 million people. Some economists say this flood of new money pour-

ing into the economy could trigger an interest rate rise.

The Halifax conversion will only go ahead if at least 3.4 million savers, and more than half of all borrowers who vote, vote in favour of conversion. The Halifax needs a higher voter response than other converting societies because it is being taken over by a subsidiary company rather than de-

mutualising. This technically removes its five-year protection from hostile bids but enables it to use its capital more freely.

Last month concerns were raised that new shareholders could see the value of their holdings drop if Halifax's entry into the FT-SE 100 index was delayed. The FT-SE Actuaries UK Indices Committee, which reviews the index, has expressed concern that the lack of an institutional placing could distort the market and may seek to delay the process by up to three weeks. That could depress the value of shares.

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Vote now, page 31
Comment, page 33

Sterling blamed for fall in output

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE City was shocked yesterday by news that British manufacturing output fell in November, suggesting that the strength of the pound is now making life difficult for British exporters and weakening the case for anything but a modest rise in interest rates this spring.

Manufacturing fell 0.5 per cent, reversing October's rise by the same amount, the Office for National Statistics said. This leaves manufacturing a meagre 0.2 per cent higher than a year ago.

Jonathan Loynes of HSBC Markets, said the figures showed that, with sterling's appreciation hitting exporters hard, strong consumer activity at home is not enough to ensure a healthy performance in industry. He said: "With the pound showing little sign of levelling off, there must now be a real danger that a further appreciation could tip manufacturing back into recession."

Although most still believe that the Chancellor will concede another quarter-point rise in base rates either next week or in February, any rise in rates in 1997 is likely to be limited. Industrial production rose 0.4 per cent in November after no change the previous month and was up 1.3 per cent against a year ago.

Later in the day a strong US employment report revived fears of higher US interest rates. The non-farm sector created 262,000 new jobs in December against an average forecast of 192,000.

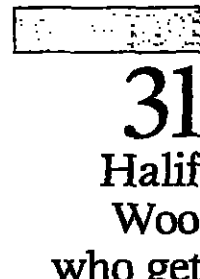
On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average slumped 1 per cent in early trading before recovering to show a gain of around 22 points in early afternoon trade. The FT-SE 100 index closed 30.4 points lower at 4,086.6.

WEEKEND MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



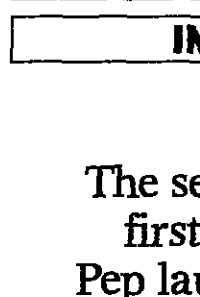
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The gurus who guide Labour and the Tories

British Gas takes £841m charge

BY OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH GAS will take exceptional charges of £841 million in the run-up to its demerger. Documents sent yesterday to its 1.7 million shareholders disclose details of additional restructuring costs that will also affect Centrica, the newly created trading arm.

British Gas has made provisions of £500 million for severance payments, write-downs on properties and other demerger costs in the results for the three months to December 31.

Some £93 million of these costs are charged to the Centrica results for the nine months to September 30. According to these pro forma results, the company incurred a loss of £452 million. British Gas has also been burdened by a £341-million loss in respect of take-or-pay contract renegotiations with BP and Mobil. In the first total evaluation of outstanding contracts, the group yesterday said they were worth £26 billion.

The much-criticised British Gas long-term incentive scheme will also undergo a demerger. Directors who move either to Centrica or BGC, the production and exploration arm, will see current share options converted into options to buy their new employers' shares.

The value of the options will remain the same even though the new companies will have much smaller market capitalisations. Shareholders are being asked to approve the demerger and new option schemes at an extraordinary meeting on February 12.

Sir Michael Perry, former Unilever chairman, will become chairman of Centrica on July 1, after the resignation of Richard Giordano, the British Gas chairman. Sir Michael is a non-executive director of British Gas and will be Mr Giordano's deputy until July.

Tempus, page 30

Argos shares dive after warning

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES in Argos, the high street retailer, plunged 15 per cent yesterday after it shocked the City with a warning that expectations for profits were riding too high.

The warning was taken as further evidence that Christmas was less joyous in Britain's high streets than retailers had hoped.

The company said that pre-tax profit for the year ended December 28 was unlikely to beat the lowest forecasts of £140 million. But it said they would be significantly ahead of last year's profit of £124.4 million. Analysts slashed their forecasts from as high as £152 million to around £138 million. Argos shares closed at 623p, down 110p. They were last at this level early last year and then climbed to a peak of 787p in October.

In the 35 days up to and including Christmas Eve, like-for-like sales were ahead 4 per cent. For the year to December

28, like-for-like growth was just over 6 per cent ahead. The growth slowdown came as a big surprise because Argos began its year strongly, with sales in the first eight months 11 per cent ahead.

Argos's warning backed up the feeling that the mass-market retailers had a slower than expected Christmas, while more upmarket retailers enjoyed better fortunes.

Trading figures from Signet, the jewellery retailer, provided further evidence. Its upmarket Ernest Jones chain saw a 9.7 per cent improvement in sales around Christmas, while H Samuel, its mass-market chain, had sales ahead just 2.5 per cent.

James McAdam, chairman of the former Ramblers group, said that diamond sales had been particularly strong this Christmas, but watch sales had been disappointing.

Tempus, page 30

Former NatWest subsidiary sued

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

A FORMER business associate of Sir Michael Sanberg, former chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and of Sir Ralph Halpern, former chairman of the Burton Group, is suing Solbank, NatWest's Spanish subsidiary until last year, for £250 million.

The two advised Arthur Oakes, managing director of Foothill, in his attempt to buy Digsa, the troubled Spanish supermarket chain, from Ashley, the UK food-to-blinds retailer for £55 million in 1993. The three held talks with NatWest.

Ashley's principle banker, after which Mr Oakes signed an irrevocable contract to purchase Digsa in April.

Mr Oakes has alleged that a week before completion, Solbank, formerly Banco NatWest Espana, which had a £10 million unsecured loan to Digsa, threatened to liquidate the company unless £25 million of security was paid. This breached the purchase contract, and was tantamount to commercial blackmail, the writ alleges.

In an attempt to refinance Digsa, Mr Oakes entered into merger talks with Unigro, another Spanish retailer.

Mr Oakes alleges that under instruction from NatWest, Solbank leaked confidential financial information about Digsa to Unigro and negotiated its sale to Unigro behind Foothill's back.

As a result of this, the writ states, Digsa's workforce saw their salvation in Solbank and became unmanageable. At one point Mr Oakes was advised by lawyers and directors to employ bodyguards or leave the country.

NatWest is considering its response to the action against Solbank. Solbank and Banco Sabadell were unavailable for comment.

BUSH TODAY

FTSE 100	4056.8	(-50.4)
Yield	3.84%	
FTSE All share	1996.91	(-11.24)
Industrial	17303.05	(-170.22)
New York		
Dow Jones	6008.36	(-17.31)*
S&P Composite	750.59	(-4.38)*
Global Fund	57.94*	(5.4%)
Long Bond	55.97*	(8.9%)
Yield	6.85%	(6.75%)
3-month Interbank	5 1/8%	(5.4%)
Libor 6m gilt	100 1/8%	(100 1/8%)
US\$ 12.5		
New York		
\$	1.6817*	(1.6808)
London	1.6803	(1.6841)
DM	2.6517	(2.6564)
FF	8.9778	(8.9698)
SF	2.3114	(2.3136)
Yen	194.77	(198.11)
£ Index	96.1	(96.6)
US\$ 5		
London	1.6858*	(1.5769)
DM	5.3615*	(5.3225)
SF	1.3707*	(1.3665)
Yen	116.07*	(116.38)
£ Index	96.0	(96.9)
Tokyo close Yen 115.81		
Short 15-day (Mar)	\$23.95	(\$24.40)
London close	\$399.10	(\$395.55)
* denotes midday trading price		

Lloyds bid

The battle for Lloyds Chemists may be coming to end after the German Gehe company topped a previous bid by UniChem. Page 28

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Bank of Ireland Mortgages

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Blind date could end in tears at the Millennium party

It is going to be a whale of an office party, but the millennium means different things to different people. I only hope the IT department is going to be able to join the party. Most offices have now heard of the IT "millennium timebomb" but many still seem amazingly complacent about how it could wreck their systems and their businesses. I suspect there are organisations that have been happily booking banqueting suites and ordering crates of champagne for the last day of the century, when they should have had their heads down working out how to avert a very nasty crisis. The basis of the problem sounds almost childishly simple. The date 2000 can baffle computers.

Most modern systems can cope. But a problem arises because "legacy applications" are incapable of working with the double zero in the date. It goes back to the

early days of computers when space was at a premium. To save space, computers were programmed to recognise only the last two digits of a year — "97", not "1997" for instance. Understandably, such systems assume that "00", being a small number, comes before, not after, "99". As such, they get their centuries mixed up. This simple failing can throw vast areas of everyday business life into confusion.

One ludicrous result that is already on record showed up when a 103-year-old American lady was invited to a nursery school. Her birth date was "93". How would the computer know it was 1893?

But the "timebomb" is not nearly as amusing. Millions of transactions are involved, from payroll calculations to stock control, from gas bills to sell-by dates, and new implications keep emerging. Lawyers have been

advising company directors that they might be personally liable if shareholder value drops because of a failure to be prepared for 2000. Nor is it widely appreciated that although a company's basic system may be equipped to cope, systems developed at departmental level are still likely to be non-compliant. Of course the double zero problem is correctable. The technology is there and the skills are available, or at least can be made available in time. In America, for instance, specialists in obsolescent programming language are being brought out of retirement.

There is a price to pay. One of my main worries is that businesses do not realise how rapidly the price will increase as the millennium approaches. That is why it is right to talk of a "timebomb". Even without the 2000 data problem, IT skills are a scarce resource. One prediction is that



Tony Reeves

the scarcity of qualified staff could double IT pay bills every year until 2000.

The millennium is not the only special challenge facing the IT industry: there is the single European currency coming along. One British bank puts the cost of updating its systems for 2000 at

£50 million. Another prediction is that up to 50 per cent of the world's total IT budget over the next few years will be devoted to averting the timebomb.

However, a survey sponsored by my organisation, Delphi Group, showed that two out of three of the largest British companies are wholly or partly unprepared for the millennium. Seventy per cent have not allocated a specific budget.

Does British industry sometimes take too much for granted about computers? If so, it is a tribute to the quality of service provided by the IT industry. But IT functions require long-term planning to be effective. Planning for 2000 has to be done in the context of the supply and demand situation in the fiercely competitive market in IT skills.

That is the bad news about the ability of Britain's IT departments to meet the challenge. Americans

seem better prepared, and are ordering the necessary IT resources. Too many British companies seem to believe it is safe to leave it till the next financial year.

The good news is that Britain is blessed with a wealth of the necessary IT skills. On the other hand, since skill knows no frontiers, Britain could lose out as America continues to attract resources that will therefore not be available to British users. On the brighter side, today's IT industry has an amazingly flexible structure.

It can do wonders in getting scarce resources to the right place at the right time — but this works best as part of long-term, or medium-term, corporate planning.

Compared with the provision of some other business resources, IT services have evolved to the point where they enable our clients to exploit the full potential of state-

of-the-art expertise. Scarce talents are maximised through varying the mix of outsourcing, training and reskilling of in-house resources, plus input of top quality consultancy. The result is a professional workforce that is highly mobile and highly adaptable. Many professions are going down this path. IT can claim to be showing the way.

That system suits all concerned. Most IT professionals tend to be independent-minded, ambitious people, many of whom prefer to be self-employed. Meanwhile, the system offers invaluable flexibility to the users of IT. And it is this flexibility that will enable the millennium challenge to be met. But only if there is more urgency among all IT users. Order your champagne now, by all means — but don't ignore the computers.

□ Tony Reeves is Chairman and Chief Executive of Delphi Group.

Reprimand for Walz

The Securities and Futures Authority, involved in disciplinary proceedings against certain senior executives at Barings over supervision of Nick Leeson, the rogue trader, yesterday ended its case against Mary Walz with a reprimand and a £5,000 contribution to costs.

The SFA announced that Ms Walz, former global head of equity products, had accepted that between December 1994 and February 1995 she failed to act "with due skill, care and diligence" in breach of City rules.

IMS placing

IMS Group, the telephone services provider, plans to float on the London Stock Exchange late this month through a £24.27 million placing. The listing, expected to value IMS at up to £45 million, will bring a shared £2 million windfall for Bill Wilson, managing director, and Paul Rouse, his deputy.

Closing down

Marshall's, one of Britain's biggest chicken producers, is closing a loss-making plant at Cothbridge, Strathclyde, costing 500 jobs.

Gehe aims to win Lloyds with final bid

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

GEHE, the German pharmaceuticals group, appears to have ensured its victory in the prolonged battle to take over Lloyds Chemists by increasing its bid to 525p per share and buying nearly 21 per cent of Lloyds shares in the market.

Gehe's latest offer, which it said is final, is worth £684 million in total, which is £100 million more than its initial bid of nearly a year ago. UniChem, the other bidder for the group, has until next Friday to decide whether to increase its cash and shares offer. It declined to comment yesterday.

Lloyds has yet to recommend which offer shareholders should accept. Michael Ward, managing director of Lloyds, said yesterday: "The ball is now in UniChem's court. The next milestone will be UniChem's response." Analysts doubt that UniChem will be able to raise its offer to compete with Gehe's cash. Its current offer values Lloyds at £653.4 million.

UniChem made its first bid, which was recommended by

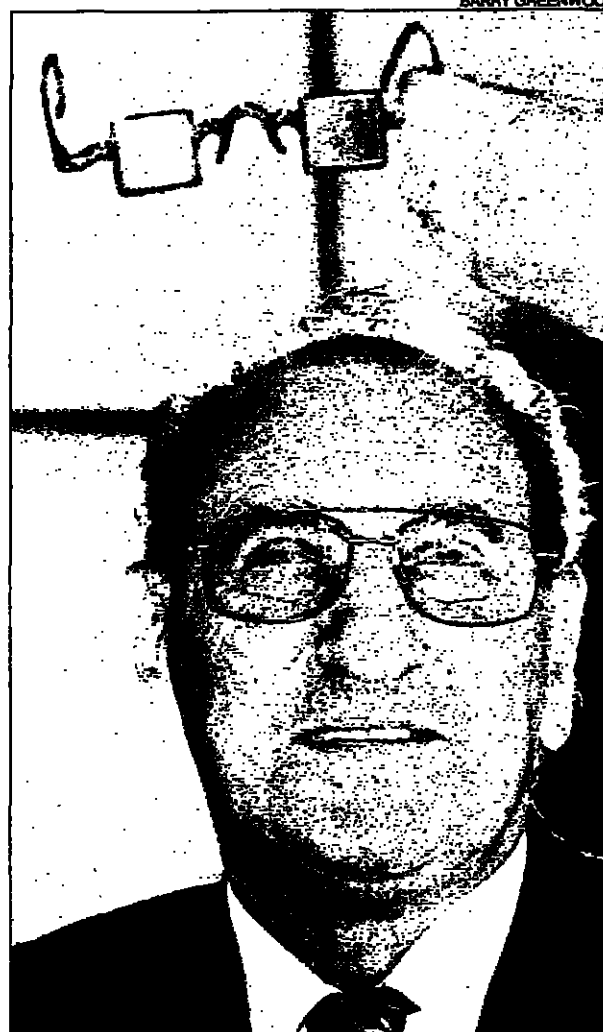
Lloyds, on January 18 last year. A month later, Gehe weighed in with a counterbid worth £584 million. Both re-bids last year after clearing regulatory hurdles.

Gehe yesterday raised its offer for ordinary shares from 500p each to 525p. It will pay 338.7p for each preference share. Lloyds Chemists rose 14p to 526.5p while UniChem shares rose 10p to 250p.

Allen Lloyd, the founder and chairman of the group, still owns 5 per cent of the company's shares. He stands to make more than £35 million from the sale, including compensation for loss of office. Salomon Brothers announced after the close of trading that its market-makers held a stake of almost 6 per cent.

Dieter Kärmerer, Gehe's chairman, said he thought the protracted battle was damaging Lloyds's business and that he had increased the bid because he wanted to bring the process to a swift end.

Tempus, page 30



In the frame: Joseph Lee, chairman of Crown Eyeglass, reported a rise in company pre-tax profits to £405,000 from £365,000 in the half-year to the end of September

Consortium tables bids for Forest

By JASON NISSE

THE consortium involving Nigel Wray, the businessman, Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman, and Phil Sagar, the football author, yesterday tabled two separate bids for Nottingham Forest, the struggling Premiership side. One puts £11 million into the club and the other £13 million.

The bids are expected to receive the backing of the Forest board and will go to a shareholders' meeting in three weeks' time.

The Wray group was able to bid after a minority of shareholders blocked the offer from a group backed by Sandy Anderson, who became a multi-millionaire after selling Portbrook, the train leasing company. One offer will inject £11 million and offer the 209 shareholders up to £2.75 million in cash or a 20 per cent stake in the new Forest. The other deal will put in £13 million but only gives £1.44 million to shareholders or a 10 per cent stake. Both have a new £4 million bank loan included.

Forest has asked its bankers to extend the deadline for repayment of its £6 million of borrowings while the deal is completed. Currently the loan is repayable on January 31.

Northern Rock £40m nursing homes deal

NORTHERN ROCK, the building society that plans to become a £1 billion bank this year, has expanded its residential and nursing care homes division with the £40 million acquisition of Kingsclear Homes. The deal increases the 720 beds already owned by Northern Rock's Regency Care Homes subsidiary by a further 1,250, making it the eighth-largest nursing homes group in the UK.

Kingsclear's beds are spread across 23 residential and nursing care homes in Yorkshire, East Anglia and the Home Counties. It earned profits of £2 million to £3 million in 1994-95. Some City commentators expressed surprise at Northern Rock's expansion into a highly fragmented sector, particularly in the same week that analysts downgraded earnings forecasts for TC Group, the market leader.

Hi-Tec passes again

HI-TEC SPORTS, the sporting footwear maker, has again passed its interim, in spite of a 50 per cent profit recovery. Hi-Tec, which last paid a dividend in December 1994, said it was waiting until it could be sure of a recovery in the US and Canada before it resumed payouts. The pound insulated the company against a 4 per cent sales decline to £47 million in the six months to October 25. However, a collapse in the demand for its hillwalking boots in North America held back total pre-tax profits to £920,000 (£610,000).

BA may face slots upset

BRITISH AIRWAYS may have to give up slots at Heathrow without compensation if an alliance with American Airlines is to proceed, it was claimed yesterday. The European Commission said selling slots was illegal under European Union law. The Office of Fair Trading has indicated willingness to approve the alliance as long as BA and American give up 168 weekly slots. BA said it would go along with the proposals provided it received financial compensation. The carriers yesterday applied for US anti-trust immunity for the alliance.

Fulmar to buy Royle

FULMAR, the printing group, is buying the loss-making WR Royle Group for £1.25 million and is planning to invest another £7 million over the next three years to return it to profits. Royle, founded in 1833, consists of four operating companies and prints annual reports, greetings cards and high quality stationery. Royle lost £1.6 million in its last full year on £21 million sales, and losses have continued at a similar level. Fulmar believes its management will quickly stem Royle's losses.

Lowndes Lambert looks at Fenchurch

By CAROLINE MERRELL

LOWNDES LAMBERT, the insurance broker, hopes to announce a deal to acquire Fenchurch, its smaller rival, within the next two weeks.

The companies were forced to announce their merger plans yesterday after news of a deal leaked — as evidenced by the recent strength of Fenchurch's share price.

Fenchurch shares closed at 66½p yesterday, up 8½p on the day, and 20½p above the recent record low. Lowndes Lambert shares also warmed to the news, rising 7p to 110p.

Lowndes Lambert has a market value of £68 million and Fenchurch is valued at £24 million. The boards of both com-

panies believe a merger would bring together two complementary businesses in a sector where profit margins have been cut over the past few years. Last year Fenchurch made profits of £5.9 million, while Lowndes Lambert's profits were £14 million.

The share price of Fenchurch has fallen almost continually since it was floated three years ago — a symptom of the increased pressure on smaller insurance brokers.

At the end of last year, JTB and Lloyd Thompson, two much bigger broking houses, merged to produce the £300 million Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group.

Boost for Textiles

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE cold winter and improved consumer confidence helped Courtaulds Textiles shares to bounce back yesterday.

The shares rose 17½p to 245p after the company reported that winter trading had been above expectations.

Courtaulds Textiles said that it anticipated an improvement in second-half profits because of strong consumer

demand for fabrics and operational improvements. The company added that business with Marks & Spencer, its biggest customer, had continued to advance.

Analysts predict that the company will reveal full-year profits, excluding exceptional charges, of about £35 million. Full-year exceptional charges, to cover a restructuring plan, are expected to total £35 million.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Boys	Girls
Australia \$	2.27	2.11	2.11
Austria Sch	18.72	18.28	18.28
Belgium Fr	57.91	53.61	53.61
Canada \$	2.392	2.232	2.232
Cyprus Cyp	0.832	0.777	0.777
Denmark Kr	10.72	9.82	9.82
Finland Mkn	8.53	7.88	7.88
France Fr	9.40	8.75	8.75
Germany Dm	2.82	2.61	2.61
Greece Dr	433	408	408
Hong Kong \$	18.71	12.71	12.71
Iceland Pk	120	100	100
Ireland Pk	1.07	0.99	0.99
Israel Shk	5.78	5.13	5.13
Italy Lira	2712	2527	2527
Japan Yen	210.10	184.10	184.10
Malta	0.653	0.598	0.598
Netherlands Gld	3.141	2.911	2.911
New Zealand \$	2.54	2.32	2.32
Norway Kr	11.45	10.86	10.86
Portugal Esc	277.50	258.00	258.00
S. Africa Rd	8.44	7.84	7.84
Spain Ptas	201.00	218.00	218.00
Sweden Kr	12.38	11.55	11.55
Switzerland Fr	2.44	2.28	2.28
Turkey Lira	194.00	182.00	182.00
USA \$	1.790	1.660	1.660

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Rotten Apple

The crowd of 4,000 aficionados cheered when Apple's legendary co-founders, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, took the stage at the annual gathering. But when Gil Amelio, the chairman, said Apple had lost as much as \$150m in the first quarter of 1996, bringing losses for the year to more than \$1bn, the euphoria vanished.

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: SIR JOHN EGAN

Airport chief on course for a smooth landing

Jon Ashworth meets the man who steered Jaguar to safety before his career took off again with the introduction of shops to BAA

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

Sir John Egan is restless. He has made his name as a problem-solver, first at Jaguar, then at BAA, where he brought colour to the grey worlds of Heathrow and Gatwick. But his latest assignment — the next Jaguar, if you will — but recognises that this may not be the best course. As he says: "You know what you're best at is fixing things up, and turning them round in the right direction. Stopping people doing the wrong things is really quite simple. The difficulty comes when people are getting more self-confident and start to have choices."

Heathrow and its sister Gatwick had seen better days when Sir John arrived on the scene. "They weren't very interesting, and were far too bureaucratic," he recalls. "They'd become very dull places to be in, as they still are in many countries of the world. What we tried to do is to make them interesting."

Few would guess at the source of his inspiration. After graduating from Imperial College, London, in 1961, Sir John signed up as a trainee with Shell International, and went on to work in Iran, drilling oil wells. His wife, Julia, was with him. "Our favourite city was Esfahan, right in the middle of the country," he recalls. "We drove for hours, and when you got there, there was this marvellous medieval city with a river flowing through it and miles of green around, like an oasis, really."

"It had a bazaar that was the biggest, I think, in the Middle East, where there was a tremendous amount of 'making things'. They were making silkwork, they were painting ivory paintings, they were making metal objects — just miles and miles of it. It was one of the most exciting places in the world."

The experience left its mark. "When I got to Heathrow, I decided we ought to have all the best things in the world, at the crossroads of the world. We were talking about the Silk Roads crossing at Samarkand, and we were going to have that at Heathrow. The idea really came from these marvellous places that are so exciting and so interesting."

And so it is that Heathrow and Gatwick now resemble enormous souks, awash with high street names. Mappin & Webb in Heathrow Terminal 4 sells more Rolex watches than anywhere in Britain. A bottle of whisky is sold every six seconds at a BAA airport. A quarter of all films sold by Dixons are sold in airport stores.

All this fits with the Sir John rallying cry: putting the customer first. "This is precisely what I did with Jaguar Cars," he says. "We spent a lot of time researching what customers wanted, and trying to put that into the cars. I've always assumed that business is about making money out of satisfying customers, and that, without a satisfied customer, you don't really have a business. If you start off from there, I think you actually get it right."

Drilling oil wells was just one aspect of an extraordinarily varied career. Born in Lancashire, Sir John grew up in Coventry, and helped out at his father's garage. He once accepted a bicycle as part-exchange on a car — along with the bicycle clips. After Shell, he did an MBA at London Business School, then ventured into spare parts, working at General Motors and Leyland Cars. A stint with



Sir John Egan aimed to recapture the excitement of an Eastern bazaar by bringing dozens of high street retailers to airports to make them interesting

Massey Ferguson in Italy led to Jaguar, the stock market and a knighthood. Sir John sold the company to Ford of America in 1990 for £1.6 billion, netting £2 million on his shares.

His week remains reassuringly familiar. A solid sleeper, he jogs in Regent's Park each morning, and sets off for the office at 8.15 in his company Jaguar. On Fridays the Egans escape to their house in Warwick for a quiet day "mending fences" — unless Twickenham is in full cry. Sir John is keen on his rugby. Sunday often finds him on the road, positioning himself for the coming week's events.

The Egans enjoy dining out in the Charlotte Street area of London, not far from their Regent's Park home, and tend to enjoy their own company. The couple have two daughters, 24 and 28. Italian food is a favourite. They go skiing every year, and enjoy walking in Tuscany and Switzerland, as well as closer to home. "There are some marvellous long-distance walks in the UK," he says. "I think our favourites are the Thames Path and the Cotswolds Way."

The Egans are also fond of the Lake District and the Devon coast — although their technique of sending luggage on ahead by taxi after overnight stops causes

consternation. "They simply can't understand why you aren't going in it," Sir John laughs. "These must be nutters here."

Restless or not, Sir John has plenty to keep him going. The report of the public inquiry into Terminal 5 is expected to be submitted to the Government later this year. Sir John says: "People have accepted that we're going to have Terminal 5. I think now the issues are, how do we make sure its impact is minimised on the communities around. We are very willing to enter that debate, and make sure we come up with a high-quality solution."

Labour's threatened windfall tax does not apply to BAA, he insists. "No one has said we are under-regulated, sold at too low a price, or making excessive profits."

He extols the virtues of privatisation, while conceding that mistakes have been made. "Privatisation has been a huge success story, and it rather grieves me that the mistakes of one or two companies have coloured what's been, really, a superb piece of value-added for the nation as a whole. Practically all of the organisations have given better quality and lower cost to their customers."

Sir John leads from the top. "The way I manage is to try to get the long-term strategy well understood by everybody. The next thing is to set the financial and quality objectives for the company. From

then on, I spend most of my time helping the key people achieve their goals."

He insists he is receptive to ideas. "I listen avidly to the advice people give. I don't normally react to it right away, but I sort of put it into the machine, and keep crunching away at it, until eventually I emerge with what I think we have to do."

The new year brings the prospect of new airport contracts in Australia and South Africa, but Sir John is not interested in expansion at any price. "The one thing that I've made quite clear is that I'm not going to put flags on the map and lose money. This is all about making money. If it's not going to be profitable, I won't be doing it."

BAA's "customers" — shoppers and shareholders alike — would expect nothing less.

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Statement of power set in stone for corporate world

Joanna Pitman assesses the charms of Spencer House after its restoration

Spencer House, that handsome Neo-Classical palace in Portland stone that looks scarcely out of place in Grosvenor Park, has recently unveiled a new restoration of one of London's greatest architectural curios. On the south side of the house is the Palm Room. Lord Spencer's bizarre chamber of marital fertility, strewn with gilded palm leaves and decorated with a cornucopia of Grecoan gold ornamental devices.

Heavily gilded palm tree columns line the walls and overhead floats a pink, pale green and gold coffered dome ceiling and a grandiose frieze of griffins and candelabra copied from the Temple of Antonine and Faustina in Rome. It was in this room that the 1st Earl Spencer retired after dinner to play cards and discuss affairs of state.

Spencer House has recently

emerged from a ten-year restoration programme under the direction of Lord Rothschild, whose J Rothschild Holdings Group acquired a 125-year lease on the building from Lord Spencer in 1985.

The majority of the building has been fitted out for corporate use by elements of the Rothschild empire. The remaining state rooms of "London's last intact palace" house the Rothschild collection of fine art as well as exquisite artworks lent by friends, colleagues and institutions. The list includes works from the Queen's Royal Collection, the Tate Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the National Trust and George Christie.

The result is an exquisite

and richly decorated private gallery-palace that has provided the surroundings for dinners and functions tailored to suit Lord Rothschild's business purposes. But since the completion of the £17 million restoration programme, he has thrown open the doors of Spencer House for hire by companies and institutions for a maximum of 60 functions a year.

The house was built between 1755 and 1765 for John, the 1st Earl Spencer, as a private London palace for this prominent Whig family. The shell of the house was erected and the ground floor decorated between 1755 and 1758 by John Vardy, a pupil of William Kent, under the supervision of General George Gray, an amateur

architect and secretary of the Society of Dilettanti. Fashions soon changed and by the end of 1758 Roman taste was out and "the pure Greek style" was in. James "Athenian" Stuart (architect of Lichfield House in St James's Square) took over, decorated the first floor and remodelled part of the ground floor.

The house was remodelled and redecorated in the 1780s under the 2nd Earl Spencer by Henry Holland, architect of Brooks's. The 19th-century Earls Spencer continued the family tradition in politics and maintained Spencer House as a focus of political and artistic society. By the 1920s, the 7th Earl, who was still in occupation, redecorated the entire house and saved it from demolition. The family ceased to live there in the 1920s and Spencer House was occupied by the Ladies' Army and Navy Club from 1927 to 1943.

At the height of the Blitz, many of the original fixtures were removed to Althorp, the seat of the Spencer family. Almost all of these architectural details have been painstakingly reproduced under Lord Rothschild's direction by craftsmen working for Dick Reid, the York mastercarver. Original colour schemes have been recreated under the direction of David Milmar.

Spencer House is now close to fulfilling again its original design as a statement of power — political, royal and artistic. For information on private and corporate entertaining, call 0171-514 1964. For public opening times, call 0171-499 8620.



Heavily gilded columns adorn the splendidly restored Palm Room at Spencer House

Northern Rock nursing homes

Hi-Tec passes

BA may face slow

Fulmar to buy R

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Kingfisher set to revive a suffering retail sector

KINGFISHER, the Woolworth, Comet and B&Q stores group, is expected to bring some much needed cheer to the retail sector with its trading statement on Wednesday.

In yesterday's depressed conditions, Kingfisher finished 2.5p easier at 639.5p. But Sir Geoff Mulcahy, chief executive, will be upbeat about current trading, with brokers also forecasting a sharp jump in sales during the run-up to Christmas and new year sales. Brokers have already pencilled in a strong rise in pre-tax profits for the year to January 31, with most of them looking for £380 million compared with last year's £287 million.

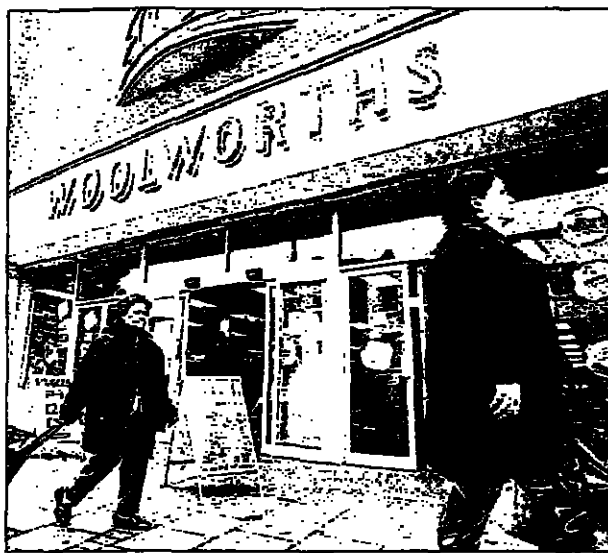
Woolworth is expected to provide the biggest impetus to profits growth, having increased its market share with the help of improved buying patterns. B&Q will have continued to benefit from the recovery in the housing market.

In contrast, the trading statements from other leading retailers have been, at best, mixed. Argos saw its price tumble 10p to 623p after disappointing the market with a lacklustre trading statement. Like-for-like sales were up 11 per cent but showed definite signs of slowing, while sales of toys had been difficult in the run-up to Christmas as Kingfisher grabbed market share.

The news from Argos dragged other stores lower, with Next, reporting next week, falling 22.5p to 529p. House of Fraser fell 5.5p to 141p. Other losers included Great Universal, down 2.5p to 580p, Marks & Spencer, 17p to 465.5p, Boots, 7.5p to 611.5p, Debenhams, 13p to 494p. Hamleys, 11.5p to 368.5p, and Toys 'R Us, 8.5p to 266.5p.

The rest of the market was treated to its now customary Friday, better-than-expected performance by Wall Street, with the Dow Jones industrial average showing a 67-point fall during the first hour. It followed some better than expected US employment numbers, providing further evidence that the Fed may be forced to raise interest rates soon. Later the Dow regained its poise.

Underpinned by a steady performance from gilts, the equity market rode out the storm, with the FT-SE 100 index reducing a 50-point fall to close 30.4 down at 4,056.6, stretching the fall on the week to 32.0 points. Turnover



Woolworth has bagged more market share from rivals

topped 1 billion shares for the first time this year with heavy turnover recorded in BT, up 2.5p at 386.5p (28.7 million shares), BTR, down 10.5p at 254.5p (26 million) and Freemove, up 1p to 434p (63 million).

ICI continued to reel from Thursday's profits downgrading by HSBC James Capel, the broker, falling 16p to 735p. Capel has wiped £100

million from both its 1997 and 1998 projections because of the stronger pound.

P&O rose 17p more to 620p, still reflecting Kleinwort Benson's decision to include it among its top ten 1997 buys.

But Redland remained in freefall, losing another 5.5p to 330p, after briefly touching 322p. It now seems increasingly likely that Redland will lose its place in the top 100 companies.

Lloyds Chemist responded to the better terms from Gehe with a 14p rise to 526.5p. The German drug wholesaler has raised its offer from 500p to 525p in cash, valuing Lloyds at £684.1 million. With the price trading at a discount to the offer, Gehe snapped up stock. By the close, 33 million shares had changed hands. It now accounts for around 21 per cent of Lloyds. Unichem's

Further demand for SIG up 9.5p at a new high of 274.5p, stretches the rise on the week to 30p. Brokers say SIG is undergoing a re-rating as prospects continue to improve. This week Teather & Greenwood, the broker, came out with a "buy" recommendation and was joined by Merrill Lynch.

rival offer is worth 505p a share, or £657 million. Unichem rose 10p to 250p.

Ryland Group climbed 28p to a new high of 1074p on news of a bid approach. The motor dealer said it was in talks which may lead to an offer being made. Other motor dealers continued to respond positively to bullish news about car sales out earlier this week from the Society of Motor Manufactur-

ers and Traders. Lookers rose 5p to 116p, Evans Halshaw, 11p to 252.5p, Dixons Motors, 21p to 267p, and Charles Sidney, 5.5p to 90p.

Fenchurch Insurance, mentioned in this column yesterday, enjoyed an early mark-up, rising 8.5p to 66.5p after confirming it was in merger talks with rival Lowndes Lambert, 7p higher at 110p. The Fenchurch price climbed sharply on Thursday, leading to claims that a bid may be imminent. Speculators say terms are likely to be all-paper, valuing Fenchurch at around 80p a share.

Arabis rose 5.5p to 22p after the company announced it was in bid talks. At these levels it is capitalised at £12.4 million.

ASW Holdings fell 4p to a new low of 29p after confirming earlier this week that it had continued to incur losses since June.

This week's profits warning left Redland a further 10p lower at 102.5p. The price was further undermined by a cross in 500,000 shares at 100p.

Wellington Holdings firmed 2p to 255.5p after splashing out £5.1 million for Dynamic Seals in the US. Earlier this week ABN Amro Hoare Govett came out with a "buy" recommendation for the group.

Doeflex jumped 11.5p to 285p. Edinburgh Fund Managers has increased its stake in the company to 2.04 million shares, or 11.7 per cent.

GILT EDGED: Prices moved better after weaker than expected industrial production numbers. But the gains were short-lived, with London following US Treasury bonds lower on the latest US employment figures.

In futures, the March long closed unchanged at £108.1/32 as the number of contracts completed reached 93,000. There was a steepening of the yield curve as shorter dated issues outperformed longer. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished five ticks down at £101.9/16, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1/4 point firmer at £102.3/16.

NEW YORK: US blue chips survived a surprisingly strong December employment report that sent bonds into a tailspin. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was only 17.31 points lower at 6,608.36, after a loss of almost 70 points in earlier dealings.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)

Dow Jones 6608.36 (+17.31)

S&P Composite 750.59 (+4.28)

Tokyo

Nikkei Average 17303.85 (+770.22)

Hong Kong

Hang Seng 13191.50 (+6.61)

Amsterdam

EOD Index 646.89 (+3.39)

Sydney

AO 2418.6 (+4.8)

Frankfurt

DAX 2833.39 (+40.76)

Singapore

Straits 2242.31 (+11.42)

Brussels

General 10791.88 (+81.03)

Paris

CAC-40 2527.50 (+21.58)

Zurich

SIX 852.90 (+2.70)

London

FT 30 2762.2 (+31.9)

FT 100 4056.6 (+30.4)

FTSE MIB 250 4307.8 (+4.9)

FTSE 250 2021.3 (+12.8)

FTSE Euro Stoxx 100 1955.0 (+16.0)

FT AEX 1956.8 (+1.3)

FT Non Financials 2063.7 (+12.7)

FT Financials 1157.2 (+0.2)

FT Govt 93.74 (+0.1)

Bloomberg

SEAQ Volume 1080.1m

US

German Mark 2.4633 (+0.0025)

Exchange Index 94.1 (+0.5)

Bank of England official close (Mps)

CDSU 1.1339

NPI 153.9 Nov (2.7%) Jan 1997-100

RPIX 153.7 Nov (3.7%) Jan 1997-100

Recent Issues

Aquarius 173p

Fisher n/p (120) 3p

Cadent 278p

Epicore Network 55

GB Railways 238p

Hardy Underwear 175

Newell 258p (+10p)

Oxford Biomedica 60p

Parkwood Hldgs 74p

Pilot Tech 59p

Sunderland 697p

Sutton Harbour 131

West Bromwich Alb 220

Xenova 224

Major Changes

Rises:

BS Group 180p (+20p)

Pochins 125p (+14p)

Matthew Clark 305p (+27p)

Countdown Text 245p (+17p)

Hambros 259p (+16p)

Evans Halshaw 252p (+11p)

Unichem 250p (+10p)

Nab Express 542p (+18p)

Close Bros 370p (+11p)

Lloyds Chem 526p (+14p)

Photobank 419p (+10p)

Falls:

Phoneline 44p (-14p)

Argos 623p (-11p)

Rubicon 102p (-10p)

Inspec 188p (-15p)

Acorn Group 108p (-8p)

REXAM 347p (-15p)

Next 529p (-22p)

RMC Group 903p (-32p)

GUS 580p (-22p)

Stand Chart 682p (-22p)

Grand Met 432p (-13p)

Hamleys 388p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 45

Society gathering

BACK in the 1930s, it was fashionable among the mad and the bad to believe that a conspiracy of bankers and financiers was about to take over the world. Today we are better informed; we know that no banker could possess such global vision. (Besides, even if they did bid for the world, we know that they would pay too much for it.) Yet the market is enchanted with the banks, an introspective obsession that is best seen in the FT-SE 100 index of leading shares.

Add up the market values of the FT-SE banks, insurers and financial services companies and you get a financial juggernaut worth more than £150 billion, almost a fifth of the value of the index as a whole. And that number will soon increase with the arrival of the building societies. With a total value of £16 billion, Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance &

Leicester, will probably bulldoze some £6 billion of manufacturing businesses out of the FT-SE, making way for mortgages, life insurance premiums and whizzo treasury schemes. Add up the numbers and by the end of the year, the financial sector could account for more than 23 per cent of the FT-SE 100.

Does it matter? Possibly. Such indices are used as a barometer of economic mood and expectations of the financial health of UK plc. But outside the dealing rooms no one believes that banks and life insurers are so important. British Invisibles reckons they contribute not a quarter of GDP but only 7 per cent. But banks are now very profitable, providing returns of 23 per cent or more, double what manufacturing achieves. The question now is when, not whether the overcapitalised financial sector sees its profits squeezed.

Argos

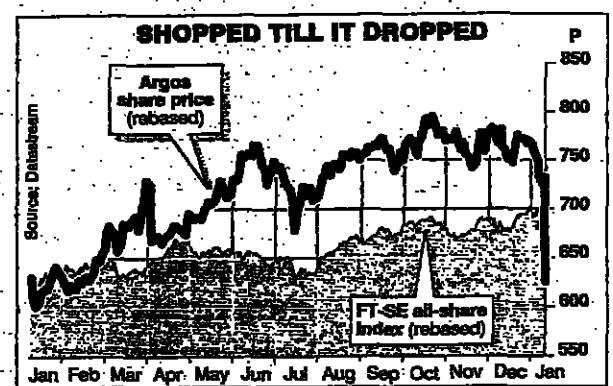
THE CITY has suddenly become nervous about the great retailing recovery. Argos has let the world know that the lowest City forecast of its profits - some £140 million - is in fact at the top of the range.

That led to a massive sell-off yesterday, with Argos shares dropping 15 per cent. Yet Argos is still likely to produce profits well above last year's level. In effect, the City had developed unrealistic expectations about sales and apparently overlooked some costs falling in the second half.

The result was a balloon of rising expectations with brokers leapingfrogging over forecasts of their rivals. Argos is not without its problems. Expanding fast, the company's new outlets have been taking business

from old stores, damaging like-for-like sales growth. There was also a mysterious slow-down in the autumn while December was better but not outstanding. This does not mean that the Argos management has lost its touch but the stock is still at a premium to the sector and could show further weakness.

If optimism about other retailers also proves overdone, the market will have big cause to worry. With exporters profits trounced by the strong pound, domestic retailing is the big white hope for investors. More modest expectations for the high street could leave this bull market looking even more exposed.



Lloyds Chem

THE silence was deafening from Unichem yesterday after its rival, the German wholesaler Gehe, put on the table a £684 million final offer for Lloyds Chemists. Unichem has little to gain from pursuing this one further. An attempt to match the 525p cash offer from the Germans would entail a substantial further issue of shares. Moreover, any sign that Unichem was prepared to raise its offer would deal a hammer blow to Unichem stock and so further increase the size of the share issue and the potential earnings dilution.

To trump Gehe would be a self-defeating strategy. Its bid is a gamble on cost-savings; the British wholesaler reckons it can reduce overhead by £20 million in a year although it may have to achieve more than that to avoid dilution to its earnings. Gehe, too, must achieve savings to make this deal pay

but its cost of capital is lower and in accepting Gehe's cash, Lloyds investors can adopt a low-risk strategy. Indeed, if the market is bidding for stock at 525p, there is little incentive for Lloyds holders to wait for a cheque from Gehe; they might as well sell now.

The question remains as to what Unichem's options are for the future. Failing to win Lloyds is a disappointment but not a disaster. Gehe will spend more than a year rationalising AAH and Lloyds. Unichem will be able to exploit any weakness and continue to build up its retail chain piecemeal. If the Unichem bid lapses then Unichem's stock can be expected to rise.

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MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Current	Week's	Notes
Barclays Bank	+78.5p	Buying ahead of figures
Lancaster Trust	+17.82p	Profit taking
Beasdale	+15.5p	Buyback trading
Wickes	+24.2p	Returns from suspension
Redland	-33.0p	Downgrading
Dixons Group	-49.4p	Worries about future profits
ICI	-11.1p	Downgrading
ICI	-34p	Broker downgrades profits
Matthew Clark	-30.5p	Buying ahead of figures

Underpinned by a steady performance from gilts, the equity market rode out the storm, with the FT-SE 100 index reducing a 50-point fall to close 30.4 down at 4,056.6, stretching the fall on the week to 32.0 points. Turnover

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TESSA TEASE 34

The academic who rumbled Abbey National

WEEKEND MONEY

REFUND TIME 37

Check your statements — just in case



THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Vote now or risk losing your shares

Anne Ashworth and Marianne Curphey
on how the Halifax needs 3.4m
'yes' votes before proceeding with float

In a series of advertisements since Boxing Day, the Halifax Building Society has emphasised the magnitude of the vote on its plans to become a bank. The scale of operation has been compared to the tallest fisherman's tale about the size of a catch, to the loudest sound that can come from the lungs of the fuvvies of actors, and to a giant baby lumbering around a supermarket aisle.

Yesterday the Halifax supplied some more specific details. To ensure that its plans are passed, 3.4 million of its investors must say "yes", that is 50 per cent of all those who qualify to vote. The assent of borrowers is less important. Only a simple majority of those voting is required.

To ensure that it achieves the turnout of investors, the society has begun a campaign to make certain that its customers submit their ballot papers. On the first page of the transfer document, which sets

receive the basic distribution. To qualify, you need to have had a balance of £100 or more in a Halifax share account or share accounts at midnight on November 25, 1994, and at December 31, 1996. These accounts must remain open until the stock market flotation in June.

Unfortunately for those customers in deposit accounts, such as the Cardcash account and Asset Reserve cheque account, only share accounts confer crucial voting and membership rights. Only those able to vote will be eligible for a windfall.

Borrowers will benefit if they had £100 or more in a Halifax mortgage account at November 25, 1994, and at December 31, 1996, and at the date of flotation in June.

Some 4.6 million people will qualify for both the basic and the variable distribution, including those borrowers who are also investors with the society. Only those who had £1,000 in a share account, or share accounts at November 25, 1994, December 31, 1996, and at February 24, 1997, are eligible. The number of free shares they will pocket will be based on the lower of their total balances at these dates, with one extra free share being given for every £50 over the £1,000 threshold up to a limit of £50,000.

This means that someone who had £5,673 invested with the society at November 25, 1994, and has £11,500 at February 24, 1997, will be deemed to have a "lower total balance" of £5,763 and will receive 294 free shares, including their 200 basic distribution. These will be worth £1.235 at 420p mid-price for the shares. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank advising the Halifax, has estimated their value at between 390p and 450p per share.

Those investors with £50,000 entrusted to the care of the Halifax will get 1,181 shares, worth £4,960, the maximum available however large your balance.

To the ire of those with joint accounts, only the first named on the account stands to benefit, in a rule that has caused much grief in this and other building society conversions and much



Xtra effort: the scale of the Halifax's operation to convince members to vote has been compared to a giant baby lumbering around a supermarket aisle

disension among couples who have pooled their savings. The Halifax has taken pains to ensure the rights of widows and other successors in a complex set of provisions covering 20 pages of the 165-page transfer document. However, a widow or widower will be eligible only for the additional variable distribution if they were two-year investing members with the society at December 31, 1996.

The Halifax intends to distribute some £16 million in a statutory cash bonus to its savers under 18 who do not have votes and so cannot receive shares, and to those with balances of less than £100 in share accounts at December 31, 1996. This bonus will be approximately 9.4 per cent. However, thrifty younger savers hoping to make a killing may be disappointed. The bonus will be given only on the first

£1,000 invested, meaning that the maximum payout will be £94. To educate its army of shareholders, the Halifax will be sending out information on the stock market, although it expects that many will wish to dispose of their holdings as soon as possible. Those who decide to hold on to their free shares in this new bank and in any other of the societies also becoming banks this

year will be able to shelter them from tax in a personal equity plan (Pep). As disclosed in *The Times* and finally announced by the Inland Revenue this week, the shares will be transferred at zero value, as they have not been paid for. As a result, anyone minded to do so can invest a further £9,000 in other Peps, as their annual allowances will be unaffected. Helpline: 0800 527327

L&G back in annuity business

Legal & General, one of the United Kingdom's biggest pension providers, has returned to the annuity market after an absence of three years (Caroline Merrell writes).

The company stopped selling annuities because it felt that it was unable to offer competitively priced products. It has decided to return to the fray because it believes that it can now offer annuities with higher rates which will be competitive.

Legal & General is also hoping to exploit the trend towards money purchase pension schemes, where the size of the pension is defined by the amount contributed. Those with money purchase schemes must purchase an annuity at some point in their retirement.

The company is also pre-

dicting a big increase in the number of people retiring. Tony Fildes, Legal & General's head of personal pensions, said: "The number of maturing pensions is on the increase and set to grow over the coming years because of the shift from final-salary to money purchase schemes and a rising trend towards early retirement."

Peter Quinton, managing director of the Annuity Bureau, the pensions specialist, believes that Legal & General will offer good annuity rates on certain types of products. He said: "We think they will offer good rates for single-life products and on pension funds of under £50,000."

A joint life pension is where the annuity will provide a pension for the spouse if the policyholder dies. A single-life product does not offer this benefit.

According to figures from Legal & General, a £10,000 lump sum will buy an annual income of £1,120 on a single-life basis for a male aged 65. This compares favourably with the £1,102 offered by Generali, a company that is well known for offering some of the best annuity rates. Royal & Sun Alliance, meanwhile, would pay an annuity of £1,057.

On a joint-life basis, Legal & General is not quite as generous. A £10,000 pension would

buy an annual income of £883. Generali offers a better rate at £888.

In general, annuity rates are at a very low level. Their rates are linked to the prevailing level of interest rates, which are historically low. Mr Quinton said: "The end of 1996 saw annuity rates move up for the first time in several months, marking an end to the downward spiral which lasted since July."

The Prudential, Swiss Life, Canada Life and MGM all raised their rates in the latter half of December. Stalwart was the first annuity provider of 1997 to increase rates on December 3.

Choosing the right annuity at retirement can make thousands of pounds' worth of difference to the income that pensioners will receive in retirement.

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Season for stock-pickers

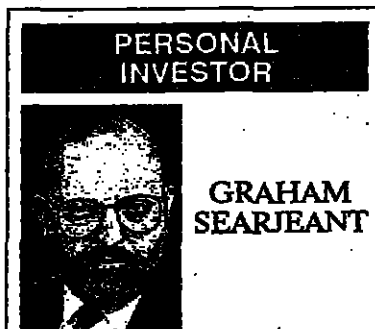
Received wisdom says that 1997 will be a "down" year for the London stock market, and a few others as well. We shall see. After ten days, the average is marginally lower. That is not surprising after a suspiciously convenient new high at year end, when the books are made up. In the short term, moderate reports on Christmas trading will not help. Nor will cuts in brokers' profit forecasts for companies vulnerable to the rising pound.

Such short-term caution is hardly cause to cash in and belatedly hibernate. Average unit trusts reflect that, but not all. As quoted here before, Niels Taube, a dozen of UK fundamental analysts, can remember few years in his long career when overall market movements obliterated skills at picking the right companies to invest in.

Anyone who doubts that need look no further than the performance of big companies in 1996. Over the year, the FT-SE 100 index of Britain's biggest companies rose by 11.6 per cent. But that would tell you little about what happened to the value of the 100 individual companies that made up that index.

Details kindly provided by Datastream International show that only 40 of the 100 ended with gains within 20 percentage points round the average. Only two in five gained between 1.6 per cent and 21.6 per cent. The performance of the majority bore little resemblance to the index they jointly make up.

At the top, Enterprise Oil gained 63 per cent. At the bottom, Hanson fell by 32 per cent, even after adjusting for its



PERSONAL INVESTOR
GRAHAM SEARJEANT

first demerger. Four other companies put on more than 40 per cent. Although Hanson was in a league of its own, five others lost more than 10 per cent.

Unfortunately for many private investors, the worst losers were mostly bigger than the best winners. They included British Gas, Allied Domecq, BTR and BAT Industries as well as Hanson. All these stocks are widely held. All were widely proffered by professional advisers as safe, good value holdings — often helping pension funds to unload.

In 1996, those who bought Railtrack's partly paid shares were instant and big winners far ahead of the index. British Energy investors had to be patient but have now gained about 30 per cent in six months. Later in 1997, there should be gains for millions who receive shares in Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester as fund managers usually buy control of the former building societies from private investors in the market. Picking winners among existing

stocks is easier said than done. The long-term approach is to choose companies whose profits are forecast to grow at a double-figure rate for at least the next two years, that have strong positions in healthy markets and good reputations. Profit growth gives these momentum, even if a market fall hits their ratings.

Chasing bargain basement big names can often produce gains in a bad year for the markets. Those of us who are suckers for the January sales approach know, however, that there are good reasons for well-researched stocks to fall from grace. United Biscuits may have looked cheap a year ago, but fell a further quarter in 1996. Hanson has had two bad years in a row. These again feature among new year tips, however, along with Allied Domecq, BAT and ICI, also a poor 1996 performer.

A few will doubtless shine. BAT is a cyclical stock, torn between bad vibes on tobacco and strong profits. After a nervy 1996, it may bounce back. Over the long haul, this looks a cheap stock destined to remain cheap. Hanson may spring to life after its final demerger of Eastern, but the latter looks more obviously attractive to an American power utility.

Aside from such special situations, many of us back the recovery of troubled companies too early. Wiseheads wait for reliable evidence of improvement. Potential bidders for down-and-outs such as Sears often wait for someone else to do the hard work. Early birds can earn the best returns. They can also have a long, depressing, profitless wait.

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Sara McConnell explains who will benefit most in the flotation

Don't be left behind in the race for Woolwich shares



Woolwich savers may need to act fast to safeguard their bonuses, ensuring that they receive the maximum number of shares. As well as a basic distribution of shares worth £844 the society is making an additional distribution to the 1.12 million investors who had been with the Woolwich for two years at December 31, 1996, and held at least £1,000.

£1,000, they will receive only the basic payout. This means that someone with £5,000 in his or her account at December 31, 1996, who let their balance fall below a £1,000 would lose £368. If they do qualify for the additional distribution they will receive four shares for every £100 in their accounts, giving them a minimum of 40 shares and a maximum of 2,000, on top of the basic distribution. The bonus will be calculated on the lower of the two balances on December 31, 1995 (the first reference date) and February 11, 1997 (the second reference date).

Woolwich has indicated that the share price will be between 175p and 200p, with a mid-price of 187p.

Based on this mid-price, those with £5,000 saved, for example, stand to get an additional variable distribution of 200 shares, making a total distribution worth £1,218. Those 60,000 fortunate savers with balances of £50,000 or more will gain the maximum bonus of £4,593. This includes the basic distribution of 450 shares, worth £844. The 910,000 remaining savers and the 530,000 borrowers will also receive this basic distribution.

Those who are both borrower and savers and who have more than £50,000 in their savings account will qualify for the maximum bonus worth £5,437.

The Woolwich's plan to make an additional variable distribution to larger savers should save it from the wrath of its more substantial investors. Larger savers with the Alliance & Leicester remain irate that their society pro-

poses only a basic distribution. However, Members For Conversion, the pressure group, argues that a flat-rate payout would have given all 2.57 million members 650 shares each. This would have meant larger payouts for three quarters of savers and all borrowers.

In its transfer document, which details every aspect of the society's plans to turn itself into a bank, the Woolwich reveals the following key information:

■ As a bank, the Woolwich is expected to be valued at between £2.9 billion and £3.38 billion. At the mid-value of £3.17 billion, the shares would

and those who have always had less than £100 in their accounts will also get a statutory cash bonus. They will not have the right to vote at the special general meeting.

■ The society confirmed that holders of joint accounts where the first-named holder died before the flotation would still qualify for a payout. If a first-named holder who qualifies for the variable payout as a two-year saver with a balance of more than £1,000 dies before the flotation, the second-named holder will get the payout. He or she will also get a payout from any other account for which he or she is the first-named holder. Alternatively, a surviving second-named holder will get the basic payout if that was all the dead member would have received. But such second-named holders will be unable to claim a payout from any other held.

Disabled people whose accounts are held in the name of carers or staff, with the disabled person as the second-named account holder, will not qualify for payouts.

■ Members wanting to vote on the Woolwich's proposals can attend the special general meeting at the London Arena in Docklands at 2.30pm on February 11. Alternatively, they can vote by post by February 10. For the proposals to be approved, at least 20 per cent of savers entitled to vote must vote, of whom at least 75 per cent must vote in favour. There must be a simple majority of borrowers who vote being in favour.

■ You can run down your balance after the key date of February 11, but it is vital to retain membership.

Extra variable distribution should lessen the wrath of larger investors

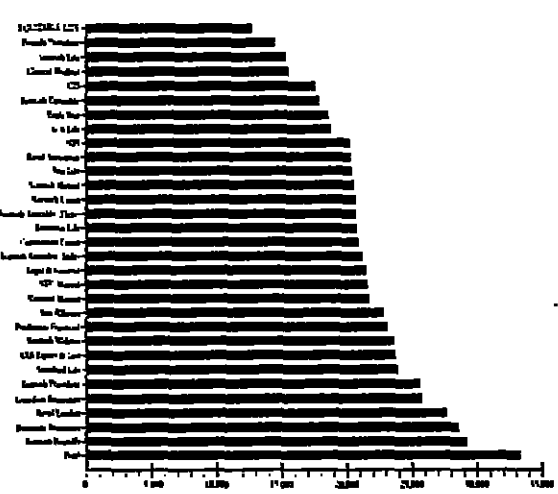
be worth 187p each. These shares will be included in the FT-SE 100 index.

■ All savers with a total balance of £100 or more on December 31, 1996, and December 31, 1995, will receive the basic payout of 450 shares. Borrowers with mortgages of £100 or more will also receive the basic payout. Only first-named account holders qualify.

■ Savers who failed to top up accounts to the £100 level by the end of last year will lose the right to free shares. Instead, they will get a statutory cash bonus of 10 per cent of their balance. Children under 18

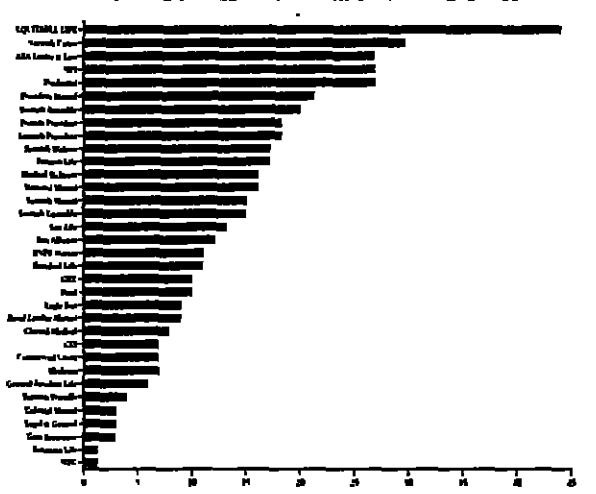
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The effect of charges

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Source: Planned Savings surveys of regular contributors with profits personal pension plans, 1974-1996

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هكذا من الأصل

Patience pays off for Halifax members

Patience has been its own reward for Halifax borrowers and savers. Many have complained about the long delay between the announcement of the flotation in November 1994 and payout day in June 1997.

However, this period of waiting has been fruitful because of a combination of circumstances. House prices have recovered, giving a boost not only to the Halifax, but also to the closely comparable but already quoted Abbey National. As a result, Abbey shares have risen, and so have the estimates for the Halifax price.

The value of the free shares to be distributed to 8.1 million fortunate members, seems likely to be more than 20 per cent better than originally predicted. The Abbey happiness effect has also spread to the Woolwich, where the estimated windfalls are almost 25 per cent more than expected.

While crossing its fingers that the



ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

market does not suffer a reverse before the summer, the Halifax should be concentrating on ways to keep its customers smiling after flotation. A significant improvement in savers' rates would be a good start.

Don't count on it

AN ABACUS in primary colours illustrates the promotional literature for Legal & General's push into the annuity market, presumably to

suggest how simple and straightforward its offers will be. But anyone whose personal pension is now maturing and who needs to buy an annuity should be cynical about such symbols, and also of phrases like "It's the numbers that matter", the slogan for the new enterprise.

L&G has been attracted back into this field because more people now have personal pensions and will be obliged to buy annuities, from which their retirement income will be paid.

Thousands more employees than previously are also members of money purchase company schemes and are required to arrange annuities for themselves. Few have any idea of the wide variation in rates and the need to shop around.

For L&G, these statistics are the "numbers that matter", rather than the amount that you will receive from your annuity. Legal & General's rates will not necessarily be better than those of its rivals. Although it talks of "competitive pricing", this is easy when rates are low, as at present. It is more difficult when they begin to rise.

Prospective annuitants should keep their calculators at hand, rather than an abacus, when they compare rates from different insurers. Always remember that Jane Austen described annuities as a "very serious business" and take Legal & General at its word — it is the numbers that matter, not the hype.



Words of wisdom: Keith Hagar, 67, gives specialist advice to two customers who have elderly relatives concerned about their finances

Senior service to ease care worries

Pensioners shall speak up in the new financial advice service for the elderly. Long Term Independence Planning will be staffed mostly by people close to or past retirement.

Keith Hagar, 67, will be among them. Like his 16 fellow advisers, Mr Hagar will be authorised by the Personal Investment Authority. Mr Hagar, who was formerly a Diplomatic Service officer, said: "My age makes people feel more comfortable. They feel more at ease with someone who is more mature."

The launch of the service has been prompted by the number of requests for financial help received by Help the Aged's information helpline. Almost half of the 60,000 people who contact Seniorline each year have concerns about finance, with many worrying about how to pay for long-term care.

One of the special responsibilities of Long Term Independence Planning will be to offer advice on the financial aspects of long-term care, including the specialised insurance policies covering the cost of going into a home.

Help the Aged said: "After discussing each person's particular needs, the adviser will prepare a personalised report with various options. The advice is confidential and free of charge. The aim of the adviser is always to provide the best possible advice."

The service will rely on funding from the commission generated from products sold. The financial consultants have also received training on the benefits system.

Help the Aged estimates that about one million pensioners do not claim the benefits to which they are entitled.

The service will also help pensioners, their families and

those approaching retirement to understand:

- The responsibilities of the NHS and social services;
- Treatment of property;
- Assessment of couples;
- Deprivation of assets and the consequences;
- Legal matters; and
- The appropriate financial advice.

Anyone contacting the service helpline will initially be asked to complete a questionnaire. Christine Cryne, head of commerce and corporate fundraising at Help the Aged, said: "Once the form is completed... an adviser is put in contact with the person. According to the complexity of the issues, a discussion can take place either over the telephone or a face-to-face interview is arranged."

For further details, telephone 0500 767476.

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Sara McConnell takes Abbey National to task over advertising campaign

New-look Tessa is such a tease

**HIT OR
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Abbey National admitted this week that its claim of a potential return of 98 per cent over five years on its new stock market-linked Tessa will be impossible to achieve on past market performance.

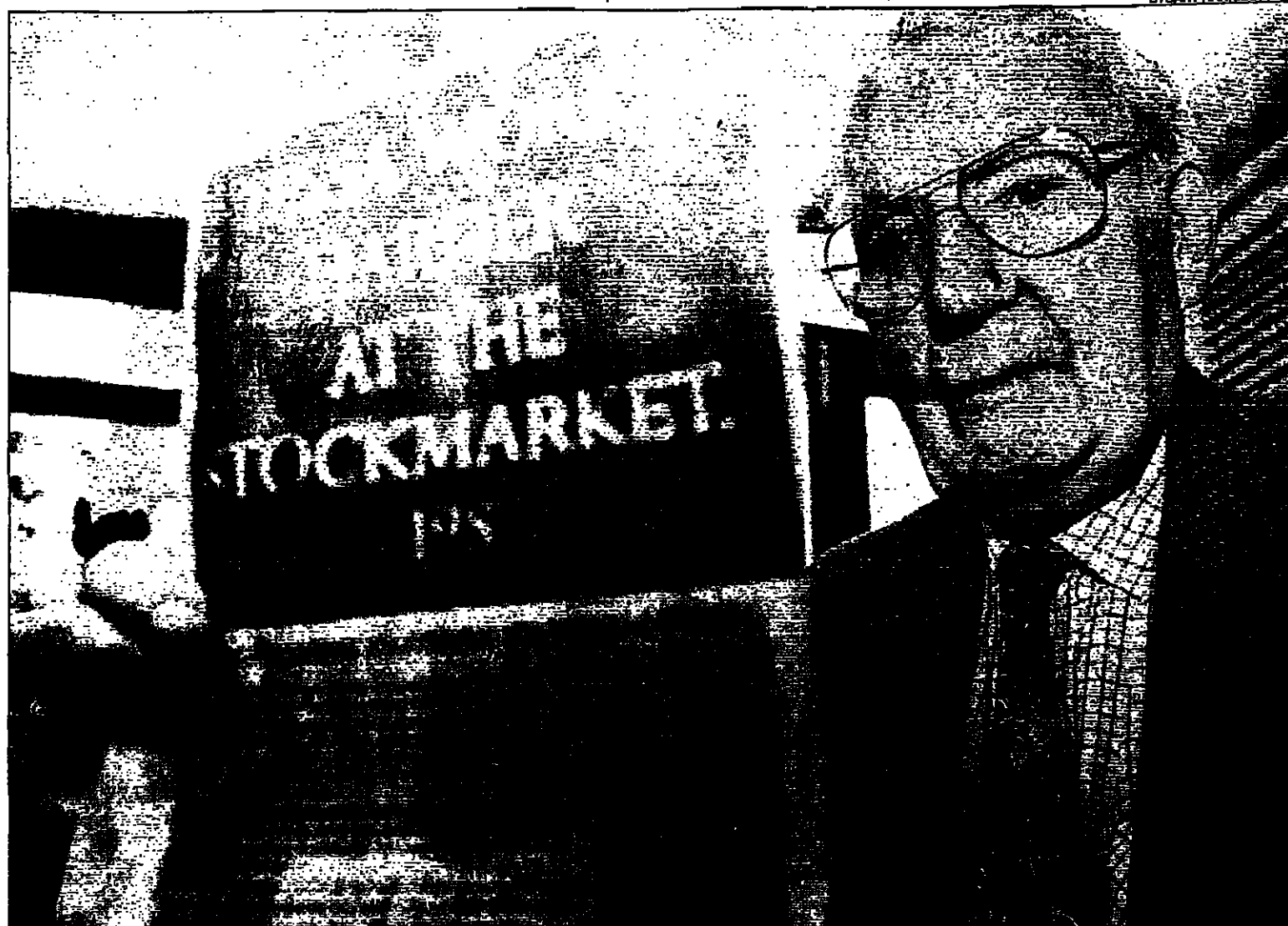
The new Tessa is being extensively advertised, as millions of savers consider their options after the maturing of £2 billion of first-generation Tessa accounts. Abbey's Tessa promises a return of 100 per cent of capital, plus potential returns of up to 98 per cent.

But savers will achieve this return only if two market indices, the FT-SE 100 and the S&P 500 in the US, both rise every month for five years. This has never happened since the FT-SE 100 was created in 1984, according to Micropal, the specialist market statistics analysts. Six months is the longest that both have risen simultaneously.

But Charles Pinder, Abbey's director of savings and investments, said the use of the figure "must be seen in the context of the sales process". He said: "If we were allowing people to infer that this return is what they could reasonably expect, we could be criticised, but there is no obfuscation, no hiding away. No one can invest in this Tessa off the page. The application form only comes with a detailed brochure." The account is fully explained by branch staff, he added.

Savers in the Tessa will earn interest on their investment at a rate of 1.15 per cent in any month in which both indices rise by any amount. If one or both the indices fall or stay the same there will be no interest. Once interest is earned it cannot be taken away. If both indices fall or stagnate consistently over the five-year investment period, savers could find themselves with nothing more to show for their investment after five years than the capital they invested in the first place.

If the Abbey's stock market Tessa had been on offer in 1991 and had matured last



Professor Antony Allott was amazed when the Personal Investment Authority said the stock market Tessa is a savings product and not its responsibility

year, the actual return would have been 46 per cent, less than half the 98 per cent mentioned in the Abbey's advertisement. Savers would have received a total of £13,125, including their capital investment of £9,000. A return of 98 per cent would have given them a total of £17,873. Since 1984, the average return over any five-year period would have been £12,776.

These figures assume the whole £9,000 is put into the Tessa immediately. But only those with maturing first-generation Tessas can do this. Those just starting to invest in a Tessa can put only £3,000 into an account in the first year because of Inland Revenue restrictions. The remaining £6,000 goes into a feeder account, which pays interest

net of tax, not gross as in the Tessa. Abbey has not calculated the potential return for first-generation Tessas, saying it would be too mathematically complex. But it agreed the return would be lower than for savers able to invest the whole amount.

As such, they are not the responsibility of the Personal Investment Authority. Banks and building societies which sell stock market-linked Tessas are not bound by the PIA's marketing rules.

But Professor Antony Allott, a Times reader from

was an investment linked to the stock market. After all the advertisement said so, using the word "investment" four times, "stock market" six times, "invest" twice and "investors" and "investing" once each.

The Banking Ombudsman, who investigates disputes between banks and their customers can act only if the complaint involves an existing bank customer. It does not regulate bank advertising.

Professor Allott concluded: "There are obvious gaps in the protection offered to potential customers who may be beguiled by misleading marketing of financial services."

Mr Pinder denied the advertisement was misleading. He said: "It's impossible to put everything in an advertisement. It is there to attract

people. It is our job to sell the product honestly." Abbey is not bound by the PIA's rules, said Mr Pinder, but it would be "commercial suicide" to sell customers unsuitable savings accounts and endanger the bank's reputation.

Independent financial advisers are becoming uneasy about stock market-linked Tessas. James Higgins, of Chamberlain de Broe, said: "These accounts are loosely regulated and there is scope for misunderstanding. What you are doing [with the Abbey Tessa] is potentially giving away all your growth. There are certain people who should be told there is a risk and that they are gambling with the £2,000 or £3,000 that they would get in an ordinary variable-rate Tessa."

There are gaps in the protection offered to potential customers

Stock market Tessas like the Abbey's are not considered investments under the Financial Services Act, even though their returns depend on the performance of the stock market. They are considered deposits because the return of capital is guaran-

Banbury, Oxfordshire, is one investor who believes this is illogical. He complained to the PIA that Abbey's advertisement was misleading. But the PIA told him the Tessa was a savings product and not its responsibility. Professor Allott said: "I had thought this

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Don't be fooled by bond sales patter

There are lies, damned lies, and then there are statistics from guaranteed and high-income bond providers. Last month the Institute of Actuaries attacked life companies and bancassurance over the figures they use to market their products.

With offers of up to 10.5 per cent annual income and/or high growth plus capital security after five years, these bonds have become extremely popular as interest rates have languished in recent years.

Institutions such as the Bank of Scotland and the Royal Bank of Scotland have launched high-income bonds alongside EuroLife, Financial Assurance, Hamilton Life, Swiss Life, Friends Provident, Millennium Life, General Accident and Scottish Life International, raising hundreds of millions of pounds.

But the institute believes many savers may be unaware of the extent to which their capital may be at risk from the start. All high-income bonds have linked capital protection to the performance of a stock market index, typically the FT-SE 100. In the past year a link to the US S&P 500 has been added as product providers have strived for bigger headline rates in the low interest rate environment.

Typically, savers are promised all their capital back if the FT-SE 100 or the S&P 500 grow over the term, or 50 per cent return of capital if either falls by 5 per cent or more. But what has really upset the actuaries is the frequent statement by life companies that "neither index has fallen over any of the 1,740 five-year periods (when a five-year period can start on each working day of each year) since

the FT-SE 100 index was introduced in 1984". The institute says that focusing on the past 12 years misleads savers because this has been a period of exceptional growth with low inflation. It points to the fact that since 1974 there has actually been a 23 per

cent income and offering capital security if either the FT-SE 100 or S&P 500 do not fall during the period — and it plans to use the problematic sentence. Alan Gill, head of product design and marketing, said: "We're not trying to pull the wool over anybody's eyes.

chief actuary of the Prudential, says bond providers should show market performance over a longer period. He said: "There are a lot of indices that go a lot further back than 1984."

Other product providers seem to want to instill historical amnesia in their customers. Mark Joannes, group director for personal investments at Financial Assurance, said: "I'm not sure how what happened in the 1930s says anything about today's economic conditions." Friends Provident has just closed a higher-income bond offering 10.5 per cent annual income if the FT-SE 100 and S&P do not fall over five years. Chris Bridge, actuarial manager in product development, said the company is reviewing whether to include pre-1984 figures in its literature. "There is a danger if it is mis-sold and people are reliant on getting the capital back at the end. We wouldn't want to sell to people who couldn't take that risk."

Actuaries warn on bond guarantees

By Christine Mackenzie
Senior Lecturer of Actuaries has warned savers against being misled by marketing material.

Double warning: how we have twice highlighted the problem

cent chance of either one of the indices falling over five years. Going back to 1924, it points out that the UK market alone has fallen in 26 per cent of five-year periods.

Paul Grace, of Scottish Equitable and the institute, is particularly concerned by those products which offer a guarantee. "The use of the word guarantee is very emotive and will raise expectations beyond a reasonable level. They are not guaranteed as they ultimately depend on the performance of the market."

But Andrew Barrie, of Barrie & Hibbert, an Edinburgh actuary, says savers intending to spend the income particularly need to appreciate the true risks to their capital. He also points out that there were just two separate five-year periods since 1984.

Royal Scottish, a Bank of Scotland subsidiary, is launching a five-year bond paying 8

The product is based on the FT-SE 100, which began in 1984. The statement that it hasn't fallen for 1,740 five-year periods is fact. We always add the caveat that past performance is never a guide to the future."

However, Peter Norwell, chairman of the institute and

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Bond may be a security risk

By Christine Mackenzie

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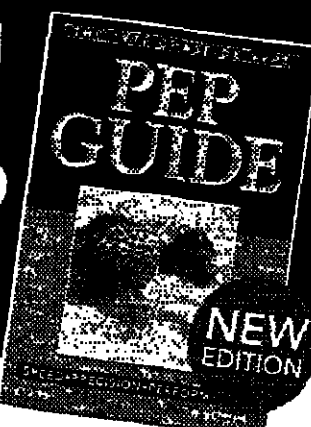
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Marianne Curphey examines a new product with a money-back feature



Talking point: a lot of customers discovered they were paying very high charges

Eagle Star goes for guaranteed pensions

Eagle Star, the life and general insurance arm of BAT Industries, has launched the first UK pension with a money-back guarantee. It will be sold over the telephone and will reimburse customers who wish to transfer to another pension provider within two years.

Life insurers have traditionally imposed heavy penalties on customers who stop or transfer out of their personal pension in the early years. They defend this by saying that the start-up costs of a personal pension are high.

Eagle Star's Managed Pension Fund will not impose an early surrender penalty. However, the company expects fewer than 5 per cent of customers to take up the offer, which suggests that it does not anticipate losing much money via the guarantee. All fees and charges will be refunded and the current market value of the pension transferred to

another product with transparent charges would revolutionise the market. Its pension fund, like its personal equity plan, aims to track the FT-SE All-Share Index.

Certainly many consumers are still reluctant to commit themselves to such a long-term financial plan and have been frightened by publicity over mis-selling of personal pensions in the 1980s. Martin Campbell, Virgin's product development manager, said he did not believe a two-year refund was necessary. "People have a cooling-off period if they wish to change their mind," he said. But he welcomed Eagle Star's attempts to clarify the pensions' complex charging structures.

The lack of decent products from the pensions industry is a bit of a disgrace. A lot of people have left their pension lapsed in the past because they bought it under pressure and they might not have fully understood what they were taking on. Some of them have subsequently discovered that they are paying very high charges for their plan.

According to the financial magazine *Money Marketing*, Eagle Star's with-profits fund is currently languishing at the bottom of the performance table. In the five years to April 1996, the most recent performance information, Eagle Star came 29th out of 30 companies for a man aged 60 paying premiums of £50 a month. The managed (unlinked) fund came 15th out of 43 companies for the five years to July 1996 for a male aged 60 paying £50 a month. The best performing managed fund was Skandia Life, and CIS the best with-profits fund.

A recent report by Which?, the magazine of the Consumers' Association, said most personal pension plans were a "rip-off" because of high charges. But independent financial advisers say some plans with low charges still trail those with big set-up fees because of poor performance.

People have been frightened off after publicity on mis-selling of personal pension plans

WHAT EVERYONE OUGHT TO KNOW BEFORE INVESTING IN A PEP...

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WHEN every High Street Bank, Investment Company, and a hundred other institutions seem to be offering financial products of every kind, and when one of the most popular of those is the Personal Equity Plan or PEP, it's worth taking a brief look at the basics of saving your money—and how a PEP might or might not benefit you as an investor.

When you are planning an investment you need to think about two things

FIRSTLY:

"Why are you investing your money?"

SECONDLY:

"How long would you like to invest your money for?"

For example, if you are saving money as a secure way of dealing with unexpected outgoings (that's why day 1, you are probably better off considering a traditional bank or building society high interest account).

Likewise, if you are saving up for a single major purchase, such as a car, or improvements to your home, once again a traditional bank or building society high interest account may be the best option.

There are no surprises here. For most people do, however, have to be persuaded, at least over the longer term, that they can benefit from stock market investment. Because it is a fact that, with the exception of a few market crashes, the stock market has been better

over the long term than any other investment. But the point is that, if you are investing for the long term, you should have no qualms about this form of stock market investment.

However, if you are looking for greater security, it may be advisable to consider...

If a PEP investment is the right choice for you, the two most popular options are an actively managed fund or an index-tracking fund.

An actively managed fund can provide a return in excess of the market but carries with it the attendant risks associated with selecting only those shares which the fund manager believes will outperform the market.

A tracker fund makes no attempt to outperform the market but provides a return in line with the market.

Thus the decision that faces the investor is between the reliably above average performance of an index-tracking fund...

against the more volatile but potentially more rewarding performance of an actively managed fund.

For many people this is not a difficult decision. An index-tracking fund is the logical choice for either the first-time investor or as the core of a larger portfolio. Actively managed funds can then be used in addition to try and get the overall performance a boost. This is the way many large investment funds, such as pension funds, operate, using money and making small exposures to a market via the index-tracking fund whilst making larger bets on specific areas of sectors via an actively managed fund.

We hope that this brief discussion of PEP investment has proved of use and should we be able to offer you further explanation, please don't hesitate to telephone us free on 0800 110622. A member of our friendly, professional team will be more than happy to help with your enquiry. **Legal & General** Investment Management

DON'T PUT ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET

While recognising the need to spread the risks, most people don't have the time, or the access to detailed information that would enable them to decide which company or range of companies will offer the best return on their investment.

Which is why they approach organisations such as Legal & General Investment Management, and when they do make such an approach they are presented with a straightforward choice.

THE FUND MANAGER ROUTE

A fund manager is someone who aims to select shares that he believes will rise in value more—and more consistently—than others.

Before you consider a PEP that might be managed actively by a fund manager, it may be useful to know more about the environment within which fund managers work—and about the basis upon which they make their decisions.

Assessing, as fund managers do, the way in which the market moves, it's important to look a little more closely into the factors that influence those share movements.

SO, WHAT MAKES A SHARE PRICE MOVE?

The immediate cause of a share price movement is the price of the share on the stock market. But the price of a share is determined by a number of factors, including the company's performance, the state of the economy, and the overall market sentiment.

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HOWEVER...

It is extremely unusual that any one fund manager can regularly outperform the average performance of the market as a whole.

WHY DON'T FUND MANAGERS ALWAYS OUTPERFORM THE MARKET?

Because, in a nutshell, in order to achieve spectacularly good returns a fund manager must concentrate on a particular sector of the market (for example, small companies) and a fund manager needs to know that sector of the market thoroughly.

Even the best fund manager cannot provide a good return if his market sector is underperforming in comparison with other market sectors.

FOR EXAMPLE...

So, if you have selected a fund which invests in smaller companies, you must accept that the fund manager is only allowed to invest in smaller companies and must do so through that fund.

It is therefore your investment decision as to whether you want to be in that part of the market or not.

The benefit for you as an investor is that by being selective about the area of the market and the shares in which you invest your money, you can achieve returns that are higher than the market average.

But, of course, what investors must remember, is that making these selective decisions means that you the investor are exposing yourself to higher risks.

FINE!

If you have the capital security to be able to shrug off the risk, you should have no qualms about this form of stock market investment.

However, if you are looking for greater security, it may be advisable to consider...

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THE TRACKER ROUTE

In contrast to a fund manager, who seeks to select shares that will outperform the market, a tracker fund provides a return in line with the market as a whole.

It does this by investing in all the companies in the stock market—or a representative sample of those companies.

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And there are practical reasons to avoid the subjectivity associated with fund managers.

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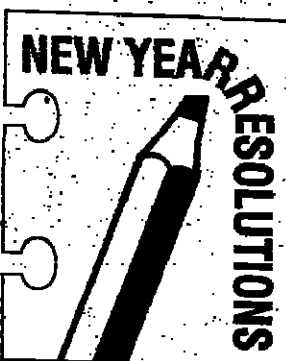
THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1997

with a money-back guarantee

Eagle Star goes for guaranteed pensions

E

Essential reading for homeowners



Take a close look at your annual statement because it could prove to be a rewarding experience, says Sara McConnell

Millions of homeowners will be receiving their annual mortgage statements over the next few weeks as building societies start a new financial year. Many will give the statement no more than a fleeting glance before tucking it away in a drawer.

However, two *Weekend Money* readers who did check their statement have just been refunded a total of £4,000 by the Nationwide Building Society in wrongly charged buildings insurance premiums. After the intervention of *The Times* this week, the Nationwide agreed to pay compensation of £500 for costs, loss of interest and inconvenience on top of the £3,500 in wrongly debited premiums it had already refunded.

Other costly mistakes are almost certainly waiting to be discovered by those who resolve to sit down and check their statements as a new mortgage year starts.

Nationwide admitted that it had wrongly set up buildings insurance in 1991 for Radhika Holmström and Paul Anderson when they bought their flat in south London. The couple's solicitor, who was also acting for the Nationwide, had told the society that buildings insurance was arranged by the freeholder of the block containing their leasehold flat. This is common practice in leasehold



ADRIAN SHERRATT

Just her cup of tea: Radhika Holmström checked her statement and gained a £4,000 refund from Nationwide

blocks. However, the society made an administrative error and set up insurance. The Nationwide deducted premiums for four years before the mistake was discovered.

Ms Holmström admitted that she should have checked the annual mortgage statements on which the premiums appeared. However, she was angry that once the mistake was discovered, the Nationwide took seven months to sort

out its error. Its administrative mistakes included sending out identical forms to be filled in as soon as the couple returned a completed first set.

Buildings insurance will not be included on mortgage statements unless it is organised by the lender. So check if you see premiums have been deducted and you have insurance organised elsewhere or by someone else. However, insurance is not always included on

mortgage statements when provided by the lender. The Abbey National deliberately keeps records of premiums separately so that it can keep track of payments.

Other potential problem areas include:

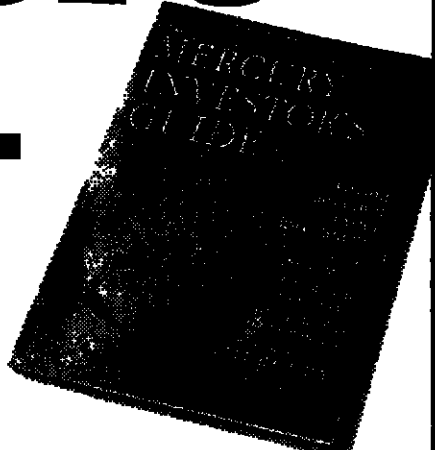
■ **Interest rates.** The main part of the mortgage statement shows what interest you have paid on your loan during the year, and at what rate. Make sure you are paying the right rate for your level of loan because some lenders charge different rates depending on how much you originally borrowed. If you have since paid off some of your loan, you should still be paying the rate for the original level. Check you have been receiving fixed rates or discounts for the period you expected.

■ **Tax relief on mortgage interest.** This is calculated by the lender and should be included in the amount of interest you are paying. You are allowed tax relief at 15 per cent on the first £30,000 of interest. You are only allowed relief on your principal residence, so if you have more than one property you should be getting relief on only one. The only time you can get relief on more than one property is if you can show you are trying to sell one of them, in which case you can get relief for however long it takes to sell.

■ **Capital repayments.** If you have repaid some of your mortgage in the past year, check that your interest has been recalculated to take it into account. Lenders distinguish between a part-repayment, where you pay off a lump sum (often a minimum of £500) and overpayments. Most major lenders will now credit part-repayments immediately, as long as you explain that the payment is to reduce your mortgage.

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The Equitable Ltd

Adam Jones asks whether it is worth supporting an investment fund devoted to our national game

Football crazy, or on to a winner?

I wasn't the best week to launch a fund investing in football clubs, especially if you'd hoped to attract investors from the North East.

Kevin Keegan's unexpected resignation from Newcastle United was blamed on bankers who wanted the unsettled manager to leave before the club floated. Fans were left to question whether the increasingly close relationship between football and the stock market was an entirely good thing — just as the Singer & Friedlander Football Fund was being unveiled.

The fund is the first to devote itself to football clubs and associated companies, such as kit manufacturers and building firms involved in stadium work.

Momentum launched its Premier Sports fund eight months ago, investing in a broad range of sporting stocks. It has grown by 60 per cent already.

In addition to being more specific, the Football Fund says it is going to be much larger, with £30 million hoped for initially. It will have a high-profile consultant in the form of Alan Hansen, the former Liverpool player and current Match of the Day analyst, who will advise on a team's prospects on the pitch.

It is also among the first



What's in a name: the departure of key personnel, such as Manchester United's Eric Cantona, could affect a club's shares

wave of open-ended investment company funds — a variation on unit trusts with a single price for buying and selling, introduced this month.

In the light of the Keegan resignation, Tony Fraher, chief executive of Singer & Friedlander Investment Funds, denied that football clubs were more vulnerable

than other companies to the departure of key personnel, saying: "Newcastle United is still there as a solid business."

But there remains another anxiety about pooled investment in football. Some club shares trade on the main market, notably Manchester United. Others trade on the Alternative Investment Mar-

ket or on a matched bargain basis on Ofex. These include Arsenal and Liverpool. Availability of the Ofex shares could be problematic. Faced with a fund manager who has to unload some of his newly collected millions into a narrow sector, prices could be inflated.

The Football Fund claims it will get around this by buying

reserve stock from newly floated clubs. Shares on the periphery of the football sector are another solution — these will be the first bought by the fund. The aim is to have 45 to 55 per cent in UK clubs eventually.

But investors must ask themselves if they want indirect exposure to the sector. The recent performance of con-

struction company shares will not have matched that of the clubs themselves. For instance, £1,000 invested in Celtic at the start of 1996 would have grown to £5,877 by the end of the year. There aren't that many Celtic shares, so prices jumps are magnified.

Investors must also consider whether the huge growth in club shares will continue. The City has woken up to football. Although there is still growth potential, with full pay-per-view TV yet to be introduced and many more clubs intending to list, the most lucrative club — Manchester United — is already out there.

Mr Fraher says the fund is not entering at the top of the market: "We're still at the ground floor level." However, Singer & Friedlander's promotional literature lists certain clubs, such as Arsenal and Blackburn Rovers, as having an intention to be quoted on the main market, when there has been no such public statement.

The minimum investment in the Football Fund is £1,000, with the option of a £50 per week savings scheme. An initial charge of 4.5 per cent is levied, with an annual management fee of 1.5 per cent.

The fund manager will be James Cotton, who runs the Singer & Friedlander smaller companies trust.

Housebuyers take heed of the great rate debate

Which way will mortgage rates move this year? With the renewed movement in the housing market, this is a question new buyers have to address. Is it best to lock into a fixed rate in anticipation of a rise? Mortgage costs are currently close to their lowest point in 30 years. Or is a variable-rate mortgage a better deal? They are generally less likely to penalise early redemption of the loan and have an obvious superiority if interest rates come down.

Speculation about interest rates has a strong political flavour this year. The alleged danger of higher mortgage rates under a Labour government is at the heart of a Conservative advertising campaign. "New Labour, new mortgage risk."

And in one of five campaign pledges made at the end of 1996, John Major said the Conservative Party was committed to "affordable mortgages".

It is true the Government has something to shout about in bringing mortgage costs to their lowest level in 30 years. However, kneejerk anxiety about a Labour government looks misplaced.

Interest rates are likely to go up, whichever party is in power, to keep inflation in check during any recovery in consumer spending. The election could be a red herring beside this consideration.

Jonathan Loyne, an economist at HSBC Markets, says: "If you had no general election this year, I wouldn't have thought the consensus forecast on interest rates from the City would be that different."

That consensus — an average of economists' predictions — is that the base rate in the fourth quarter of 1997 will be 7.75 per cent, compared with a current rate of 6 per cent. A new set of predictions is to be canvassed later this month are likely to be a little larger, but the anticipated rise should still be relatively modest.

Sterling futures — financial instruments traded on an anticipated future value of the pound — are currently being priced on the assumption that three-month interest rates (not the same as the base rate) will also be about 1 per cent more in December.

For borrowers at the end of the financial food chain, the rise could be broadly similar.

Mortgage lenders set their in-house standard variable rates above the base level. At the moment, they typically range from about 6.3 per cent to about 7.5 per cent. The most popular standard variable rate tends to be 7.25 per cent.

Using the consensus prediction, borrowers could expect to pay about 1 per cent more on their mortgages. That means a £37.92 monthly increase on a typical Nationwide interest-only £50,000 mortgage.

The City predictions on which the consensus figure is based will have taken into account any possible changes of government. It is broadly assumed that Labour will follow the cautious, anti-inflationary economics pursued by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor. This explains why the City did not allow the "New Labour, new mortgage risk" school of thought to inflate its expectations of the coming year.

There is even a suggestion that Labour will hold a Budget soon after the election — an opportunity to tighten fiscal policy even further.

The demand for fixed-rate mortgages suggests that borrowers are not particularly worried about the next five years, the period which would encompass the first term of a Labour government.

Simon Tyler, of Chase de Vere, the mortgage broker, says the greatest demand is for two-year fixed terms. The cost of taking one out has risen accordingly. Five-year fixed rates, however, have decreased in cost because of weaker demand.

Well before the election, Mr Clarke will be facing pressure to raise interest rates. The change could come as early as January 15, when he meets Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England. Mr George made it clear at their last meeting that he wanted a rate in excess of 6 per cent.

It is conceivable that Mr Clarke could delay an increase until February, citing the strength of sterling as a counterbalance to the inflationary threat provided by consumer recovery. But delaying a rate rise until two months or so before an election could work against the Government. Political expediency may rule out such a course.

ADAM JONES

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Caroline Merrell looks at a new season of offerings from fund managers



Decision time: Burt Lancaster thinks about taking the plunge in *The Swimmer*

Take a plunge into Peps

As soon as the festive season ends, the personal equity plan season begins. Already two of the UK's biggest fund managers have unveiled their annual PEP offerings. The new schemes aim to attract millions of pounds in what many will believe could be a bumper PEP year. More people than usual may take the plunge in to personal equity plans because of the proximity of the election. A Labour government may not be as generous in the tax breaks for Peps as past Tory governments.

Among those first off the blocks was Schroders Investment Management. The investment house is offering two options for its investors. One will aim to give investors high income, while the other will concentrate on capital growth.

The growth PEP will invest in three unit trusts which each have slightly different investment philosophies. The three funds are the Schroder Small-

er Companies fund, the European Smaller Companies fund and the Schroder Pacific Growth fund. The initial charge on both Peps is 3.25 per cent, while the annual charges on the growth PEP are 1.5 per cent on the two smaller companies trusts and 1.25 per cent on the Schroder Pacific Growth fund. The annual charge on the income fund is 1.25 per cent.

The income PEP is aimed at investors who are concerned about increasing expenses as they get older. According to Micropal, the statistics company, if savers had put £5,000 in the plan ten years ago, the starting income would have begun at £267 and risen to £665 by year ten.

Jason Holland, of Best Investment, said he thought that packaging the unit trusts together was a good idea. He said he believed the three trusts selected would be growth areas next year. He added: "We favour smaller companies, Europe and Asia and the Pacific Basin."

Minimum investment in the income PEP is £3,000, and in the growth PEP it is £5,000 — £2,250 of which is invested in

each of the smaller companies funds, while the remaining £1,500 is invested in the Pacific Growth fund. The initial charge on both Peps is 3.25 per cent, while the annual charges on the growth PEP are 1.5 per cent on the two smaller companies trusts and 1.25 per cent on the Schroder Pacific Growth fund. The annual charge on the income fund is 1.25 per cent.

Perpetual, another leading investment house, also revealed its PEP offering this week. The World Income PEP will invest in a wide range of international equities and will aim to generate an income of 4 per cent. Minimum investment will be £500. The fund will also be available for monthly investments as low as £20 per month.

Mr Holland said: "Although the Perpetual's performance dropped off at the beginning of last year, it has now shown some signs of recovery."

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Perpetual	113	66	59	28	11	8	12	6	4	20
Schroder	68	87	74	27	25	19	22	12	11	13
M&G	80	79	63	36	34	53	46	54	42	22
Barclays Unicorn	69	54	54	64	68	81	72	95	84	61
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Extracts from Investment Intelligence - Group Weighted Cumulative Performance Tables of all unit trust management groups as at 1.1.97

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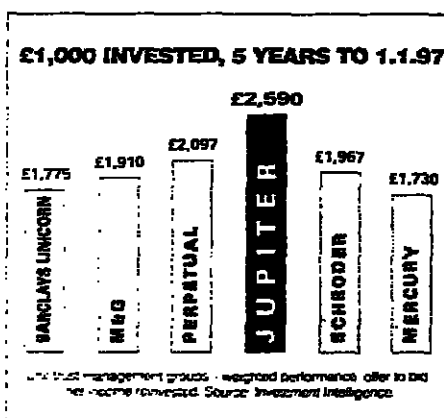
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Gold investments have lost their shine

Gold has certainly lost its allure. Over the past year, the price has fallen by around 15 per cent, from a peak of \$417 per ounce to \$355 (Caroline Merrell writes).

The price fall has been reflected in falls in gold mining shares and in the funds that invest in these shares. For instance, a £100 investment in the £200 million Mercury Gold & General at the beginning of last year would now be worth only £84.

Graham Birch, the manager of the fund, said the price of gold had peaked earlier in 1996, but since then had dropped almost continuously. He said: "Gold does not behave like other commodities. When the price falls, those that are short or gold buy up stock. When it rises, those who hold too much sell."

At the beginning of last year, analysts predicted that the price of gold and other metals would rise because of the increasing strength of the emerging economies. They pointed out that gold has a particular attraction for many in the Far East. Growing wealth in China, Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines was expected to increase demand for gold and, therefore, the price was expected to rise.

However, Mr Birch said other forces had come in to play during the year. "Many of the central banks have stores of gold," he said. "When countries get poorer they tend to sell off their gold

reserves. Governments have also been selling off gold to try to satisfy the Maastricht treaty by cutting debts. Russia and Canada sold off gold last year."

The value of shares in gold-mines will fall to a much greater extent than the gold price itself. Mr Birch said: "Every 10 per cent fall in the gold price will produce a 30 per cent fall in the shares, and over 85 per cent of the fund is invested in gold shares."

Mr Birch said that investment in a gold fund is very high-risk. "A gold fund should only comprise about 2.5 per cent of anyone's portfolio." He said that the latest figures showed that demand for gold was rising, which could push up the price.

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Source: Micropal

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Financial services reforms are overdue

From Mr J. H. Chapman
Sir, May I suggest that reform of financial services practices should be a priority for 1997?

At the national level, an efficient and trusted savings and investment industry should be a key element in our long-term growth and prosperity. At the personal level, individuals should be able to choose good value products with the confidence that they will be treated fairly.

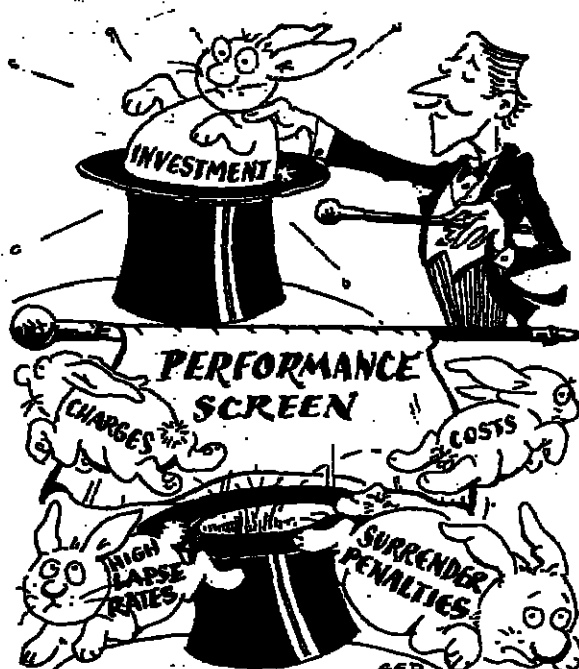
We are some way from such national and personal goals. For illustration, I have set out several shortcomings in our dominant personal finance industry, life insurance and pensions.

About £5 billion a year, or two thirds of the annual costs of this industry, goes in acquisition expenses — in commissions and advertising and other spend to persuade people to buy these products. Inevitably such costs make the value of many products questionable or indisputably poor.

Costs vary greatly between companies, and charges to consumers within policies then also vary greatly. Companies adopt various ruses to hide high charges. There is widespread manipulation of charges and surrender penalties to project or achieve high maturity payouts and the illusion of good value.

But with the greater majority of policies not going to maturity the spotlight should be on early and mid-way surrender or transfer values, as well as maturity values.

A further important feature is the striking differ-



ences in the incidence of charges between companies. Some companies impose their charges gradually, while others make their profits as quickly as possible through high early charges and surrender penalties. The resulting low early surrender values are simply pitfalls for an unwary populace.

Where such pitfall products are sold with high lapse rates, many and probably most of policyholders so trapped actually lose money by taking out their pension plans. For them the net result is simply a transfer of money to an insurance company and to the sales people who persuaded them to buy.

The role of investment

performance is sometimes paraded to obscure the key messages about charges and pitfall products. But no one can predict which investment team will outperform the others over the next five years, let alone over 25 years. Moreover, if a high charge company is to overcome its charging handicap, it may have to achieve an investment performance 1 per cent a year, or even 2 per cent a year, better than lower charge competitors. Over 25 years, such a superior investment performance is highly improbable.

At the Office of Fair Trading, I drafted successive reports — *Fair Trading and Life Insurance*, *The Surren-*

der Values of Life Insurance Policies: Mortgage Repayment Methods and Health Insurance. Such reports have led to some improvements, perhaps notably the disclosure of the effects of charges. But the messages from such disclosure have yet to get through to consumers. Consequently, the questionable or damaging practices of this industry have changed little.

Unlike other sectors investigated, there appears to be a belief that the industry is so strong and practices so well entrenched that it can "tough out" any criticisms. There are excellent individuals and companies who readily distance themselves from malpractices. Overall, however, any reformist lobby among the companies is invisible or non-existent.

Indeed progress towards improvements are snail-like with FIA reports showing little or no change in persistency rates, and with a flow of revelations about such matters as extra charges that are heaped on policies when the inflow of premiums is interrupted.

Widespread reforms are needed, including the development of a rating system, warnings about pitfall products, more openness about the operations of with-profits policies, and an overhaul of the description and links of financial advisers.

Who will bring about the reforms necessary — Government, the regulators, or the media? Yours faithfully, JOHN CHAPMAN, 8 Makepeace Avenue, Highgate, N6.

You won't need a tax accountant...

From Ms S. Singleton
Sir, I read Denis Fuller's letter (Self-assessment shock awaits the complacent, December 14) on Anne Ashworth's self-assessment article with a wry smile.

Yes, self-assessment will involve some additional burden on taxpayers, but no taxpayer will have to calculate their own tax bills provided they submit their returns in time.

Some accountants misleadingly indicate otherwise. Those of us who quite competently complete our tax returns without paying an accountant a penny will, largely, be perfectly competent to continue to do so, with assistance from the Inland Revenue, whose helpful information to date is much appreciated.

Many of us already keep full records of expenses for tax

purposes and will find no difficulty in ensuring we receive the correct forms in due course. Do not be scared into engaging an accountant unnecessarily. Yours faithfully, SUSAN SINGLETON, Singletons Solicitors, Eagle House, 67 Brooke Avenue, Harrow, Middlesex.

... Oh yes you will

From Mr H. Cartwright
Sir, Someone should advise Mr Richard Read (Self-assessment of tax and the issue of statements of accounts, Weekend Money Letters, January 4) and for that matter everyone else on payments required under self-assessment.

Clearly he is in receipt of untaxed income and/or property income. Before self-assessment, the tax on this income was due in one instalment on January 1 during the tax year — based on income received in the previous tax year. The same basis applies for the transitional year 1996-97 except the full tax based on the previous year is owing by January 31, a delay of 30 days. These payments on account will be split on a 50:50 basis for 1997-98 onwards. Without going into fine detail, you can reduce interim payments for 1996-97 if your actual liability is going to be less.

There is one concession for the 1996-97 payments on account where assessments on untaxed interest or property income for 1995-96 were finalised between June 1 and November 1 1996, the payments on account are split in two. This concession is because of a computer programming error. The Inland Revenue is still changing the rules as it finds the practical problems have not been thought through and Mr Read's final paragraph is correct.

I have tried telephoning the Revenue this year to find that most of them are still enjoying a winter break and with the most important change ever in taxation about to bite, they remain unavailable to assist.

I am afraid that the general public is not going to cope with self-assessment and will have to employ accountants. Yours faithfully, HUGH CARTWRIGHT, 22 Shrewsbury Mews, Chipstow Road, W2.

Annuities do repay capital — through higher returns

From Mr R.H. Ranson
Sir, Recent correspondence on "the annuity inquiry", particularly Mr S.C. Jones's letter, reveals a misunderstanding of how annuities work.

When a life office sells a block of annuities it calculates the amount payable so that, overall, the interest and capital will be paid back over the lifetimes of the annuitants concerned. If each annuitant lived for precisely the number of years expected at outset, then each annuitant would receive back his or her deposit purchase price together with interest.

In practice, of course, some will die early while others will live longer than expected. The

capital not paid out to those dying early is used to maintain payments to those fortunate enough to live to an advanced age. That is the insurance principle on which annuities are founded and is how the security of knowing that one will receive an income throughout life, no matter how

long that might be, is provided.

To assert, as does Mr Jones, that the pension provider pays out only the interest and retains all the capital is simply wrong and that can be easily verified by your readers. On page 42 of your November 30 issue, in which the letters ref-

erred to above appeared, you published tables showing that a man aged 65 could secure a pension annuity of about 11 per cent p.a. of the purchase price. Your same issue showed that someone buying long-term gilts would secure a return of about 7½ per cent p.a. The extra return of 3½ per cent p.a. under the annuity represents the paying back of capital described above.

Yours faithfully, R. RANSON (Managing Director and Actuary), The Equitable Life Assurance Society, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Letters to the Weekend Money section are welcomed, but The Times regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for the advice or statements

given in these columns and it must be emphasised that independent professional advice should always be sought on investment matters. Letters to the Weekend Money section can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5082.

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Halifax Solid Gold (90 Day Notice)	3.00%	3.00%	3.25%	3.25%	4.00%	4.00%	4.50%	4.50%
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Source: Moneyfacts, 30th January 1997

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Investor Services Department, Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited, FREEPOST (SE 8498) London SE1 2YU. Tel: 0345 564 564. Fax: 0171-522 3001. Please send me details of the Value Bond PEP plus the free AUTF Guide to Bond Fund PEPs.
Title: _____ Initials: _____ Surname: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
The value of this investment and the income from it may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. Also, deduction of charges and expenses means you may not get back the amount you invested. The benefits detailed are those currently applicable and will vary from one investor to another and may change in the future. For your protection, telephone calls may be recorded. Issued by Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited, regulated by the FSA.

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1997
ngs from fund manager
e a plunge
to Peps
Gold investments have lost their sheen
An investment opportunity with guaranteed peace of mind
The Equitable

Better rates for Portman savers

■ **Northern Rock Building Society** will introduce two new postal savings accounts on January 17 — Select Instant and Select 60 — paying up to 7.05 per cent gross. Both are share accounts. Existing share account holders who transfer their savings will still be entitled to benefits if the society proceeds with its proposed conversion.

■ The launch of the new open-ended investment company (OEIC), has prompted the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds to produce a factsheet that explains the concept of pooled investment. It discusses how OEICs fit into the investment fund landscape by comparing OEICs with unit trusts and investment trusts.

Copies of the factsheet are available free by calling 0181 207 1361.

LIZANNE ROSE

ANNUAL INCOME

5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.90
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.70

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

Nb. C = no interest free period, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, OM = Interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

FLOATING RATE	coupon	selling price	price	purchase
Cheshire (28/09-27/03)	8.41563%	109.50	100.00	1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03)	8.48750%	101.50	100.00	1,000

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MORTGAGES

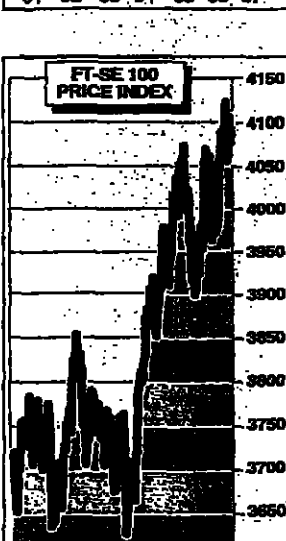
Percentage of new mortgages with adjustable rates

14%
13%
12%
11%
10%
9%
8%
7%
6%

Heller mortgage rate

Closing lower base rates

81 82 83 84 85 86 87



All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada LifeLevel	£ 9,901	£10,976	£12,444
PrudentialLevel	£ 9,860	£10,889	£12,295
Standard LifeLevel	£ 9,776	£10,844	£12,248
		£10,934	£12,032

Equitable Lf. Level	Level	Age 65	Age 65	Age 70
Sun Lf of Can. Level	Level	\$ 2,731	\$10,775	\$12,196
SINGLE LIFE				
	Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life Level	Level	\$9,207	\$10,009	\$11,198
Prudential Level	Level	29,204	29,996	31,055
Sun Lf of Can. Level	Level	\$9,207	\$10,009	\$11,198
Equitable Lf. Level	Level	\$9,207	\$9,981	\$10,837
Equitable Lf. Level	Level	\$9,971	29,958	\$10,617
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)				
	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
	Female:	Age 55	Age 65	Age 65
Canada Life Level	Level	\$9,785	\$9,398	\$10,270
Prudential Level	Level	29,768	29,357	\$10,184
Sun Lf of Can. Level	Level	\$9,612	\$9,189	\$10,009
Equitable Lf. Level	Level	\$9,690	29,186	\$9,908
Can Accident Level	Level	\$9,617	29,129	\$9,908

Compiled by: Lizzanne Ross

%	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West	1.95	£15k+	95	5.04% disc 6 mth then 1% disc-6mth
0800 118955				
Coventry	5.11	to £125k	95	2.14% discount for 12 months
0800 126125				
Lambeth	3.99	£15-150k	95	3.25% disc for 12 months.
0171 929 1331				
Banks				
Bank of Ireland	1.24	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc 6 mth
01753 510100				
TSB Bank	3.51	£15k+	95	3% disc 6 mths
0203 556000				
1500 356000				3.74% discount for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables by Ely's Guides Ltd. (01753

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**Scottish
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THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1997

PRICE

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Our Economics Editor examines the theoretical battleground

The big ideas

ECONOMICS EXPLAINED 2 THEORIES

The Holy Grail of economic policy is full employment with stable prices. But this central aim has been the only constant in a profession which excites passion and controversy, which has undergone violent U-turns in approach and emphasis, but has not yet come up with a magic formula.

The weary British voter probably sees little real difference between the economic policies now espoused by Conservatives and new Labour's hopefuls. Perhaps, at the end of a century of economic experimentation, our main political parties have reached consensus on a shaky middle ground which recognises that no one theory of economic management has proved its supremacy. But the nuances of current debate still follow age-old battle lines.

The two men whose presence looms largest are John Maynard Keynes and Milton Friedman. Unfair as it may be to their complex contributions to the art of economics — and nobody should regard it as a science — they have come to represent the opposite poles of interventionism and laissez faire which have always been, and remain, the quarrelsome spirits driving any discussion of how best to run the economy.

John Maynard Keynes single-handedly toppled the classical tradition of economics which reigned supreme in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Classical economists believed in the power of market forces, the self-correcting nature of the economy. In a downturn, wages and interest rates would eventually fall to levels low enough for businessmen to invest again. Investment, in turn, would raise employment and incomes and the economy would expand again until rising prices brought about the next downturn.

But Keynes was writing and working in the postwar period, when unemployment never fell below 5 per cent. The economy did not seem to have the power to lift itself naturally out of prolonged depression. Keynes argued that leaving everything to market forces could lead to a downward spiral in demand and that unemployment could settle at permanently high levels. Instead of relying on businessmen to turn on the economic taps, why not allow the Government to take on this role? The Government, he suggested, could actively stimulate demand by spending money on public works and lowering interest rates.

Keynes's critics charged him with believing in budget deficits, of invading individual rights and liberties with economic interventionism, of making inflation respectable. But Alec Cairncross, head of the Government Economic Ser-



Giants of the 20th century: John Maynard Keynes, left, and Milton Friedman

vice from 1964 to 1969, defends him as the apostle of economic management, not economic planning. Keynes himself said: "The important thing for government is not to do things which individuals are doing already, and to do them a little better or a little worse, but to do those things which at present are not done at all."

Milton Friedman and his Chicago school of monetarists mounted the first serious challenge to Keynes, whose ideas held sway until the 1960s. Just as it is unjust to dismiss Keynes as an interventionist, it is inaccurate to describe monetarists as laissez faire.

The Monetarists wrought two great, related changes to economic thinking. They rejected management of demand through fiscal policy — stimulating demand by cutting taxes or increasing public spending to stimulate the economy, raising taxes and cutting spending to squeeze it. Instead, they argued for the supremacy of monetary policy — the control of the quantity of money in the economy. Fighting inflation was put at the forefront of economic policy. Controlling inflation could only be done by controlling the money supply.

Monetarism certainly chimed in with a mood of disenchantment with government intervention and a rekindled desire for a greater reliance on market forces. But it was not an out-and-out repudiation of government intervention in the economy. It rejected demand management on a grand scale and it subordinated fiscal policy to the primary aim of controlling the money supply, without outlawing it.

However, under Margaret Thatcher, monetarism reached an unbalanced apogee and became synonymous with

laissez faire. Control of the money supply became the sole aim of policy. Using fiscal policy as a tool of economic management was ruled out, budgets were to be strictly balanced. The pursuit of full employment was simply dropped as a goal: in the early 1980s, there was no mention of unemployment in four successive Budget speeches.

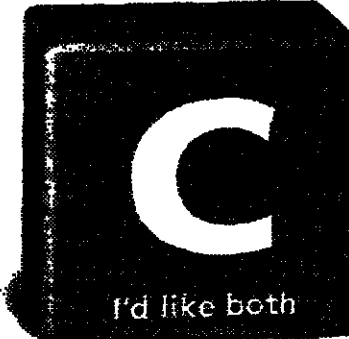
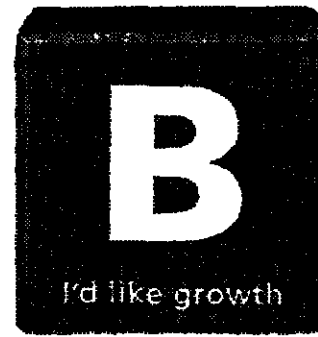
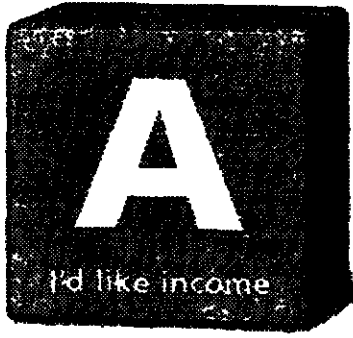
Armed with a radical programme of deregulation of industry and labour markets, the private sector was expected to unleash its own dynamism. Cairncross describes this as "extreme non-intervention" and comments: "What had happened by 1981 was tantamount to an abandonment of the entire tradition of postwar economic policy." Even Friedman criticised the 1981 Budget, which raised taxes in the teeth of the worst recession since the war, as unnecessarily cruel.

The new synthesis. Since the radicalism of the early Thatcher years, a pragmatic eclecticism has returned to economic policy-making, but it arguably owes more to Friedman than Keynes. Monetary policy remains key, but it is accepted that fiscal policy can be used to blunt the edges. Conservatives and Labour both believe in budget balance but are prepared to sanction surpluses in good times and deficits in bad.

Fighting inflation remains paramount and both main parties are committed to an inflation target. But pursuit of higher employment has made a return to the political agenda. Market forces continue to be the main agent of change, but both parties are prepared to intervene in a limited way to make the market work more efficiently.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Equities end week on dull note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES			
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50
BANKS			
Barclays	1.50	0.00	1.50
Bank of Scotland	1.50	0.00	1.50
First Direct	1.50	0.00	1.50
Halifax	1.50	0.00	1.50
HSBC	1.50	0.00	1.50
London City	1.50	0.00	1.50
Monie	1.50	0.00	1.50
NatWest	1.50	0.00	1.50
Paragon	1.50	0.00	1.50
Prudential	1.50	0.00	1.50
TSB	1.50	0.00	1.50
Windsor	1.50	0.00	1.50
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.			
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS			
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50
ENGINEERING VEHICLES			
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50
FOOD MANUFACTURERS			
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT			
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50
ELECTRICITY			
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50
ELECTRONIC & ELECT			
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
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Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50
HOUSEHOLD GOODS			
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
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Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50
ENGINEERING			
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50
CHEMICALS			
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50
DISTRIBUTORS			
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
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White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50

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White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50

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Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50

Company	Price	Change	PE
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Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50

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Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50

Company	Price	Change	PE
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50

Company	Price	Change	PE
Adnams	12.50	0.00	12.50
Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
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Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50

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Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
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Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50

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Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
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White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50

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Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50
Tennent	1.50	0.00	1.50
White Horse	1.50	0.00	1.50

Company	Price	Change	PE
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Beck's	1.50	0.00	1.50
Carlsberg	1.50	0.00	1.50
Guinness	1.50	0.00	1.50
Heineken	1.50	0.00	1.50
Johnnie Walker	1.50	0.00	1.50
Miller	1.50	0.00	1.50
Stout	1.50	0.00	1.50

RACING: FORMER CHAMPION SIGNS OFF AS JUMPING RETURNS

Worsening leg problems end Alderbrook's career

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

ALDERBROOK, one of the outstanding dual-purpose horses of recent years, was retired yesterday after increasing problems with his suspect legs made any more racing too great a risk.

The eight-year-old deserves to be bracketed with the likes of Sea Pigeon and Royal Gait after his feat of winning the 1995 Champion Hurdle less than six months after landing the Prix d'Arc, a group two race at Longchamp.

His brilliant victory at the Cheltenham Festival was achieved on only his third start over hurdles and the eight-year-old, runner-up to Collier Bay last year before winning the Scottish Champion Hurdle, had been ante-post favourite to win the hurdlers' crown again this March.

However, the soft-ground-loving son of Ardross, trained



Highland Park, left, wins at Musselburgh on the resumption of jumps racing yesterday

on the flat by Julie Cecil and over jumps by Kim Bailey, has a history of leg problems, including an operation to remove chips from a knee, and they have worsened recently.

"It was not a hard decision because I don't like seeing horses in pain and by continuing in training he would have been in pain," Bailey said yesterday. "He has a stud career ahead of him and will make a wonderful stallion. He had to have soft ground and we have had fast ground for so long it has made it nigh on impossible to train him. His joints have got puffer and the tendons at the back of his joints have been playing him up. The decision to retire him was taken jointly with his owner, Ernie Pick."

The news of Alderbrook's retirement, which comes only days after the death of Mysliv, will accentuate the desire to find other potential champions as the weather begins to ease. The search will begin immediately with Newcastle

yesterday confident of staging an excellent meeting with several Cheltenham and Aintree candidates on view.

Ann Swinbank is enjoying a terrific season and she has a fine chance to improve on a winning strike rate of 29 per cent. Son Of Anshan, who has progressed with each run and won over course and distance last time, can follow up in the Teal Novices' Hurdle (12.35) — and enhance his sale price.

"He's up for sale and we are looking for the right owner," Mrs Swinbank said yesterday. "We think he is quite good. We have not been held up by the weather as much as some and Son Of Anshan went to Southwell for a gallop last week. We have an all-weather gallop at home and he's been kept ticking over."

The Adversport Dipper Novices' Chase (2.10) has brought together an attractive field of first-season chasers, but I have no hesitation in selecting Sparky Gayle. A

useful hurdler last term, he looks set to become an even better chaser judged on two sparkling victories this season, including over course and distance last time.

The form of his latest success looks solid with the third and sixth having won since, while Solomon's Dancer, the runner-up, was only just beaten in the Feltham Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Nor has the cold snap ruined Sparky Gayle's training routine. "We have been several fields in a hollow which the frost has not been able to get into. Although he has not done a lot of fast work he has never missed a career," David Parker, son of Colin, the trainer, said yesterday.

Lottery trends, page 4

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER

12.35 Son Of Anshan, 1.05 Lord Gyllene, 1.35 Sea Victor, 2.10 Sparky Gayle, 2.45 The Teal Novice, 3.15 Weaver George, 3.45 Colour Code.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.35 SEA VICTOR.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.35 BLOMBERG (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

12.35 TEAL JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

1 12.35 JACKSON PARK 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. R. Bailey 58
2 01 NO MORE HURDLES 30 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
3 02 SON OF ANSHAN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
4 03 CITY SAVY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
5 04 CUMMINS MAESTRO 11 (1.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
6 05 DOUBLE AGENT 7 (1.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
7 06 ASH TROUSAD 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
8 07 WOODLAND BOY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
9 08 RECRUITMENT 30 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
10 09 GAUTY HENRI 30 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
11 10 SOUTHERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
12 00 SOUTHERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58

1.05 PINTAIL HANDICAP CHASE

1 1.05 GRANGE BRASS 35 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. R. Bailey 58
2 01 RUSSIAN CANNON 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
3 02 ALY DALEY 42 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
4 03 WOODLAND BOY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
5 04 TWIN STARS 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
6 05 PENNIE FORD 24 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
7 06 LEPTON 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
8 07 MALTA MAW 40 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
9 08 POLITICAL MILITARY 30 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
10 09 RICHARD 10 (1.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
11 10 RICHARD 10 (1.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
12 00 RICHARD 10 (1.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58

1.35 HEMLOCK SPECIAL SERIES NOVICES HURDLE

1 1.35 ALBUZ 21 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. R. Bailey 58
2 01 BLOMBERG 35 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
3 02 CLAVES 30 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
4 03 DON'T TELL TOM 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
5 04 CUMMINS MAESTRO 11 (1.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
6 05 FASSAY 22 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
7 06 JUDITH 40 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
8 07 LEPTON 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
9 08 MALTA MAW 40 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
10 09 POLITICAL MILITARY 30 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
11 10 RICHARD 10 (1.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
12 00 RICHARD 10 (1.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M. J. Swinbank, 30 winners from 125 runners, 23.9%
JOCKEYS: P. Bailey, 3 winners from 13 runs, 23.1%
14.8%
14.8%
14.8%

2.10 ADVERSPOUT DIPPER NOVICES CHASE

1 2.10 ADVERSPOUT DIPPER 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. R. Bailey 58
2 01 ADVERSPOUT DIPPER 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
3 02 ADVERSPOUT DIPPER 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
4 03 ADVERSPOUT DIPPER 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
5 04 ADVERSPOUT DIPPER 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
6 05 ADVERSPOUT DIPPER 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
7 06 ADVERSPOUT DIPPER 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
8 07 ADVERSPOUT DIPPER 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
9 08 ADVERSPOUT DIPPER 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
10 09 ADVERSPOUT DIPPER 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
11 10 ADVERSPOUT DIPPER 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
12 00 ADVERSPOUT DIPPER 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58

2.45 BITTERN HANDICAP HURDLE

1 2.45 BITTERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. R. Bailey 58
2 01 BITTERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
3 02 BITTERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
4 03 BITTERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
5 04 BITTERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
6 05 BITTERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
7 06 BITTERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
8 07 BITTERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
9 08 BITTERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
10 09 BITTERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
11 10 BITTERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
12 00 BITTERN 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58

3.15 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP CHASE

1 3.15 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. R. Bailey 58
2 01 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
3 02 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
4 03 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
5 04 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
6 05 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
7 06 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
8 07 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
9 08 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
10 09 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
11 10 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
12 00 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58

3.45 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

1 3.45 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. R. Bailey 58
2 01 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
3 02 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
4 03 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
5 04 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
6 05 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
7 06 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
8 07 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
9 08 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
10 09 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
11 10 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58
12 00 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 25 (2.0) M. J. Swinbank 11-5. A. Dobbie 58

SAILING

Iceberg threat to Canadian skipper

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THERE were growing fears at the Vendée Globe Race headquarters in Paris last night that Gerry Roufs, the Canadian skipper, with whom they lost touch on Monday, may have sailed his Open 60, Groupe LC2, into an iceberg.

Yesterday the skipper of the Panamanian-registered cargo ship, *Mass Enterprise*, which has diverted to lead the search for Roufs, reported that an iceberg, estimated to be 4,000 metres in length and 50 metres high, was drifting through the zone where Roufs was last pinpointed.

Although winds in the area — 2,600 miles from Chile and outside the range of search aircraft — are down to about 30 knots, the rescue effort is being hampered by rough seas and fog.

Roufs, who lives in France, was lying in second place, midway between New Zealand and Cape Horn, when he encountered 70-knot winds on Monday.

Since then he has failed to respond to satellite-fax and radio messages from race headquarters and from his fellow competitors. None of Roufs's radio beacons are transmitting in either alert or distress mode.

Four of his fellow skippers have been attempting to join the search, but Isabelle Autissier, of France, sailing *PRB* as an unofficial competitor after making a stop at Cape Town, has had to give up through exhaustion. In Paris, where staff have had very little sleep for five days while dealing with the rescue of Tony Bullimore and Thierry Dubois, there was obvious concern for Roufs. "It is very worrying," a spokeswoman said. "We have no idea what has happened, it is terrible."

For Pete Goss, in *Aqua Quorum*, who set sail again on Thursday from Hobart after dropping off the rescued Raphael Dinelli, motivation is the problem as he returns to the Southern Ocean, for the Briton is now last of the eight still in the race. He is also worried about Cyclone Drena, which is heading his way.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

ENJOY A FREE DAY AT A HEALTH CLUB

Plus annual memberships worth £40,000 to be won

To mark the launch of our Discovery Diet Guide, *The Times* has teamed up with LivingWell and other leading health clubs to offer you up to six free visits to any of the clubs, listed right.

The offer allows you to use the same facilities at the participating health clubs as those enjoyed by full members. It includes workouts in the gym, use of the sauna and steam room, various aerobics classes or a swim in the pool where there is one.

In addition to sampling a health club free for up to six days, readers who take up this offer will be entered

into a prize draw offering the chance to win an annual health club membership to your chosen club. There is £40,000 of memberships to be won.

There is no better way to lose weight while you are on a diet than to do regular exercise. It not only helps to burn up fat but exercise also helps to make you feel good.

Simply present the voucher below at your chosen health club when you go for your pre-booked session. One voucher entitles you to a free day.

LivingWell
HEALTH CLUBS

THE TIMES FREE HEALTH CLUB DAY MEMBERSHIP VOUCHER AND PRIZE DRAW ENTRY DAY 6

This voucher entitles the bearer to a free day's membership at one of the health clubs listed in *The Times* on January 5 and 11, 1997. This voucher also acts as a prize draw entry coupon for the chance to win a free membership for a year to the winner's chosen health club. There are annual memberships worth a total of £40,000 to be won. The offer is valid until Friday February 28, 1997. This date is also the closing date for entry to the prize draw.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1 The offer is subject to availability. 2 Readers must book their visits in advance by telephone and state that they are using *The Times* offer. 3 This voucher must be presented when you turn up on the day. 4 The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 5 There will be additional charges for therapies. Please check what is included in the offer at the time of booking.

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Address

Postcode Day Tel

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times* please tick ☐

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1. The offer is valid until February 28, 1997. 2. Your free visit must be booked in advance by telephone quoting *The Times* offer. 3. Each voucher is only valid for one free visit. 4. A maximum of six free visits are allowed per reader. 5. No photo copies will be accepted. 7. The offer is subject to availability. 8. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 9. There may be additional charges if you wish to book beauty treatments. 10. It is advisable to confirm what facilities are included in the offer at the time of booking.



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SOUTH EAST

ABINGDON, LivingWell, 01243 554693 BASHINGSTON, Living Well, 0800 136636 BASHINGTON, Club Kingswood, 01265 522954 COHAM, Living Well, 0800 136636 COPTHORNE, Copthorne The Club, 01342 716278 COPTHORNE, Effingham Park, 01342 714994 CRAWLEY, Sebastian Coe, 01293 561186 CAMBERLEY, Fitness First, 01276 66999 DARTFORD, LivingWell, 01322 250210 EAST GRINSTEAD, Sebastian Coe, 01342 410986 FARNHAM, Sebastian Coe, 01252 782345 BATHWICK, LivingWell, 01293 527261 MAIDSTONE, LivingWell, 01622 734872; Marriott Tudor Park, 01622 734334; Sebastian Coe, 01622 551183 MALDON, Fire Lakes Hotel Golf & Country, 01621 868888 MILTON KEYNES CENTRAL, LivingWell, 01908 688286 MILTON KEYNES, LivingWell, 01908 240422 NEWBURY, Living Well, 0800 136636; Living Well, 01635 671635 247020; Sebastian Coe, 01486 658100 OLD WICKING, Chris Lane, 01483 722113 READING, Club Motivation, 01734 259958 ST ALBANS, Belswood Golf & Tennis Centre, 01727 842550 SOUTHWICK ON SEA, Fitness First, 01702 390700 SLOUGH, Copthorne, 01753 516222 WATFORD, LivingWell, 01923 210247 WHITFHAM, Sebastian Coe, 01578 516969 WOKINGHAM, LivingWell, 01734 785996

SOUTH WEST

BATH, Living Well, 0800 136636 BOURNEMOUTH, Queens Park Health Club, 01202 394900; Living Well, 01202 232222 BRISTOL, LivingWell, 01454 202506; Living Well, 0800 136636 CHELTENHAM, Harpers, 01242 257595 DINGOT, Harpers, 01235 918888 GLOUCESTER, Sebastian Coe, 01452 415242; Marriott Twickenbury Park, 01884 297582 PORTSMOUTH, Living Well, 0800 136636 SALISBURY, Harpers, 01722 339886 SOUTHAMPTON, LivingWell, 01703 788828 SWINDON, LivingWell, 01793 410557; Village, 01793 827777 WINCHESTER, Club Motivation, 01962 709988

MIDLANDS & EAST ANGLIA

BIRMINGHAM, LivingWell, 0121-236 7788; Fitness First, 0121-434 5737 BROMSGROVE, LivingWell, 0121-445 5125 CAMBRIDGE, Club Motivation, 01223 259988 CORBY, LivingWell, 01536 294568 COVENTRY, LivingWell, 01203 841019; Fitness First, 01203 893444 DAVENTRY, Harpers, 01327 871144 DUDLEY, Copthorne, 01384 482882 LEICESTER, LivingWell, 01533 671635

LivingWell, 01162 814132 LOCKINGTON, LivingWell, 01509 674166 MERIDEN, Marriott Forest of Arden, 01676 526107 MURLEY, Marriott Broadhall Priory, 01332 836002 NORTHAMPTON, Fitness First, 01604 751170; LivingWell, 01604 702804 NORWICH, LivingWell, 01603 488470 RUSHDEN, Harpers, 01933 411635 STONE-ON-TRENT, LivingWell, 01782 286717 SUITON COLDFIELD, Sebastian Coe, 01213 131317 WARWICK, LivingWell, 01926 493700

NORTH EAST

GARFORTH, LivingWell, 0113 287 6444 GRIMSBY, Midlands, 01472 358068 HUDDERSFIELD Living Well, 0800 136636 HARTLEPOOL, Fitness First, 01429 232222 HULL, Club Tamarisk, 01482 656488 LEEDS, LivingWell, 0113-244 5443; Sebastian Coe, 0113-267 5219; Marriott Leeds, 0113-236 6405 NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, LivingWell, 0191-230 2717; Copthorne, 0191-222 0333

NORTH WEST

BOLTON, Club Motivation, 01204 879988; Sebastian Coe, 01242 814973 CHESTER, Sebastian Coe, 01434 335135 RIBblesDALE, LivingWell, 01663 766891 LIVERPOOL, Woman's World (Ladies Only) 0161-521 8151 MANCHESTER, LivingWell, 0161-838 0606; Club Motivation, 01625 889888; Sebastian Coe, 0161-236 2674

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN, LivingWell, 01224 209867 AVR, Sebastian Coe, 01292 268331 DUNDEE, LivingWell, 01382 226506 DUNDEE, LivingWell, 01350 727130 EAST KILBRIDE, LivingWell, 01355 238588 EDINBURGH, Club Motivation, 0131 535 9988 GLASGOW, LivingWell, 0141 248 9788; LivingWell, 0141 204 5512; Club Motivation, 0141 306 9988 GURROCK, LivingWell, 01475 635558 INVERNESS, Sebastian Coe, 01463 235181 LIVINGSTON, LivingWell, 0800 136636

WALES

CARDFIFF, Club Motivation, 01222 588986; Copthorne, 01222 589100 NEWPORT, LivingWell, 0800 136636; LivingWell, 01933 413840 SWANSEA, LivingWell, 0800 136636

NORTHERN IRELAND

LONDONDERY, X Stress 01504 292308

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL
Arsenal welcome back David Seaman, their goalkeeper, and may need him. In this, the second of their three-match series with Sunderland, they will be without their main striker, Ian Wright. Wright and Hartson will also be suspended from the forthcoming FA Cup third-round replay. Bergkamp has now been laid low by a virus. So David Platt may return to his old role as striker, but has he still got the pace? There should be a chance up front for the promising Shaw. BG

ASTON VILLA
Keeganless Newcastle visit Villa Park this afternoon on a tidal wave of grief. Boo hoo: sob, sob. Will they blow Villa away, and later dedicate victory to their dear yet departed general, or will they emerge a confused, bedraggled outfit and submit meekly? Villa will ignore the emotional baggage and concentrate their minds, especially as there is fierce competition to win the club's most prestigious honour — the Big Steak Pub/Wacky Warehouse Player of the Month award. RK

BLACKBURN ROVERS
It is unfortunate after a long unbeaten stretch, but Blackburn must change a winning team that has taken them out of the bottom three of the Premiership and into the fourth round of the FA Cup. Billy McKinlay, so important to the Blackburn revival since the departure of Ray Harford, the former manager, is suspended and Rovers will miss his combative approach in midfield. Garry Fitzcarrick will deputise after recovering from a five-week injury lay-off. DM

CHELSEA
Scott Minto is in doubt, which could mean another chance at left wing back for Andy Myers. Gianluca Vialli, snubbed this week by Cesare Maldini, the new Italy manager, seems destined for the bench again, the forward combination of Mark Hughes and Gianfranco Zola being so productive. With Roberto di Matteo so emphatically back in form in midfield, Chelsea could control this game, not least because Eddie Newton has strengthened that midfield since his return. BG

COVENTRY CITY
Heady days at Highfield Road, with 13 points from a possible 15 having elevated Coventry into an intoxicating twelfth place in the Premiership. However, the 2-2 draw against Sunderland on New Year's Day proved costly for Bryan Richardson, the club chairman. In a gush of pre-season optimism, he had staked £10 at odds of 100-1 that his brave lads would reach 25 points come 1997. Failure to beat Sunderland left them on 23... and Richardson ruing the £1,000 pay-out that got away. RK

DERBY COUNTY
Marino Ramborg, the young Swedish forward, begins a two-month loan at the Baseball Ground next week on the recommendation of no less a source than Lennart Johansson, president of Uefa. If all goes well, Derby can sign Ramborg from Degerfors for around £700,000. "It is a perfect arrangement because we can see him play without having to offer a long contract first," Jim Smith, the manager, said. Igor Stimac is out for five weeks after a hernia operation. RH

EVERTON
Everton return to Hillsborough, where a hat-trick at the end of last season made Andrei Kanchelskis the club's top scorer. "I'm ahead of schedule this season. I've already got six, and I only had five at this stage last year," Kanchelskis said. He has just been appointed Everton's penalty-taker, which should help. Unsworth and Phelan are available again, but Ebberley and Parkinson are still absent, leaving Rideout and Stuart likely to continue in midfield. PB

LEEDS UNITED
Rob Molemar, the latest recruit of George Graham, the manager, may be needed today. He could be pressed into service for an earlier-than-expected debut, with Palmer and Halls suspended, Radebe on international duty, and Pemberton and Johnson long-term injuries. The attack, though, is still looking thin, with only one goal in the last six games. Leicester's visit today begins an important month for Leeds, with games against Derby and West Ham to follow. PB

LEICESTER CITY
Martin O'Neill, the manager, took the squad to Bournemouth this week to enable his players to train outdoors on grass for the first time in 1997. Three successive fixtures have fallen victim to the weather, but that has not enabled either Steve Walsh or Mike Whitlow to recover from injuries in time to play at Leeds this afternoon. Neil Lennon, who has a broken toe, was braced for a painkilling injection, only to discover that he begins a two-match suspension. RH

LIVERPOOL
Pity poor Rob Jones. After nine months out with injury, he finally made his return to first-team action in midweek, but now he is out again — for one game only, because of a groin problem. "It is wise to give him a rest, but Rob will be back next week," Roy Evans, the manager, explained. Jones's injury means that Jason McAteer will return to right wing back and John Barnes will return to the midfield after missing the embarrassment at Middlesbrough in midweek. DM

MANCHESTER UNITED
Undersoil heating is all very well, but even United have not got it at their training ground, so yesterday they trained at Old Trafford, their first outdoor session of the week. Beckham and Butt are among the question marks, but the main problem tomorrow is likely to be at left back, with Irwin not expected to be fit and Philip Neville out; that might lead to another flirtation with three at the back if Pallister is fit. David May will have his groin operation next Saturday, so will play. PB

MIDDLESBROUGH
Bryan Robson's men may be in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals but avoiding relegation remains the issue and the home fixture today against Southampton is rightly perceived as a six-pointer. Middlesbrough have won just once in their last 15 league games. Meanwhile, Craig Hignett has forced his way back into the first team and is endorsing the claim of Gordon McQueen, the reserve coach, that he is the club's most technically-proficient player. LT

NEWCASTLE UNITED
Naturally enough, things are a little confused at St James' Park. The players are leaving nothing to chance and there has been more than a little respect shown to Peter Beardsley this week, given the rumours that he could become part of the new management team at Newcastle. All the drama surrounding Keegan's departure has overshadowed one significant piece of injury news. Faustino Asprilla has recovered from a hamstring problem which has sidelined him for six weeks. DM

NOTTINGHAM FOREST
Stuart Pearce, the caretaker manager, is facing a dilemma over Nigel Clough, on loan from Manchester City. While he wants to sign the forward permanently, he has no cash to offer and is reluctant to allow any of his players to leave in exchange. "As far as I know I am going back on January 19 when the loan expires," Clough said. At least he will play against Chelsea this afternoon, while Chris Bart-Williams and Paul McGregor are available after injury. RH

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
David Pleat, the manager, has had some good news and some bad. The bad is that Benito Carbone will be sidelined for at least a month with a groin injury. Better news though, is that Jon Newson and Wayne Collins both came through reserve-team outings to declare themselves finally fit after absences stretching back months. Pleat also has a new face. Moses Garcia, the Spanish second-division striker from Leganes, arrived this week, a bargain at £100,000. DM

SUNDERLAND
Peter Reid, the manager, has declared his opponents today at Roker Park, Arsenal, to be "My kind of team — full of strength, organisation and ability." His new signing, the £250,000 Swede, Jan Eriksson, is a likely substitute, despite half of Reid's first-team squad being sidelined through injury or suspension. Accordingly, Bridges and Mullin will lead the home attack but Reid said: "There is nothing better than seeing young players come through the ranks." LT

WEST HAM UNITED
Having declared that he wants battlers rather than bottlers for a relegation fight, Harry Redknapp, the manager, will be tempted to give Steve Jones, the former soap factory worker, his first league start since August at Anfield. There can be little doubt that Hugo Porfiriño will keep his place alongside Jones in attack even if, according to Peter Storr, the managing director, "having looked at all the snow, he may be having second thoughts" about making his loan move permanent. KP

WIMBLEDON
Victory in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final on Wednesday avoided further fixture congestion for Wimbledon, whose recent enforced break (two league games and an FA Cup tie frozen off) at least gave Earle and Perry time to recover fitness for the win at Bolton, where Chelsea and Tottenham had previously fallen. Vinnie Jones hopes that the result will finally change attitudes. "People can stop saying what a fairytale it is," he said. "Fairytale are for kids, not professional footballers." NS

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Last five lge games
1 Liverpool	22	42	+18	WDDWL
2 Arsenal	21	40	+19	DLDDW
3 Manchester Utd	21	38	+17	DWWWD
4 Newcastle	21	37	+16	LDLWW
5 Wimbledon	19	37	+5	WWLWL
6 Aston Villa	21	35	+10	WWLDD
7 Chelsea	21	35	+4	LWWDD
8 Everton	21	28	0	WDLLL
9 Sheffield Wed	20	28	-1	WDDDD
10 Tottenham	20	28	-4	WDWWL
11 Sunderland	21	24	-8	WLWLD
12 Coventry	21	23	-5	WWLWD
13 Derby	20	23	-5	LLDLL
14 Leicester	20	23	-7	WDLDD
15 Leeds	21	22	-11	DDLLL
16 West Ham	20	21	-8	LDLWL
17 Blackburn	20	20	-3	DLWDW
18 Middlesbrough	21	18	-15	LDLWL
19 Nottm Forest	21	17	-17	LWLDD
20 Southampton	20	16	-9	LWLWL

SOUTHAMPTON
Few goalkeepers would describe playing behind Southampton's accident-prone defence as "a dream come true", but Mark Taylor, a lifelong supporter, is an exception. Signed from Barnet on New Year's Eve, he makes his debut at Middlesbrough, where Southampton seek their first away win. That will require Taylor keeping a clean sheet, assuming Southampton score their customary single away goal. Middlesbrough will want revenge for a 4-0 Dell defeat back in balmy September. NS

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
Spoils for choice is not a phrase that Gerry Francis, the manager, has been too familiar with this season yet, after the signing of Ramon Vega, the Swiss centre back, he now has a surplus of talent in central defence. Perm any three from Vega, Campbell, Calderwood and Scales seems the most simplistic solution but what happens when the long-serving Gary Mabbutt's broken leg has finally mended? Sadly, a phrase involving the words on, your and bike spring to mind. RK

Reports: Brian Glavin, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Louise Taylor, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike, David Maddock, Statistics: Julian Desborough

ASTON VILLA v NEWCASTLE UNITED
TICKETS: Sold out
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 2-1, 1-0, 0-2, 0-1, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP
ASTON VILLA (from): M Seaman, F Nelson, A Wright, U Shogun, S Shilton, S Shingler, C May, R Borres, A Townsend, I Taylor, J Johnson, S Carter, D Clarke, G Mowatt, J Joachim, L Holmes, G Farrelly, M Oakes
NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): P Sheek, W Soria, J Beardsford, D Eddi, D Pearson, P Beardsley, A Spencer, L Ferdinand, R Elliott, D Garcia, S Hodge, R Sanchez, S Watson, L Clark, P Albert, P Nelson

BLACKBURN ROVERS v COVENTRY CITY
TICKETS: Seats available
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 3-2, 1-1, 7-0, 1-1, 3-0, 0-1, 0-0

HOW THEY LINE UP
BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, K Kenna, C Hendry, H Berg, S Saur, T Shewell, L Schwan, J Wilcox, C Sutton, K Goucher, N Clarke, G Pickett, S Green, G Davis, P Wainwright, N Gudmundsson, G Fenton
COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogilvie, B Barrows, L Dash, P Williams, R Shaw, P Toller, K Richardson, G McAllister, J Salako, D Dublin, D Huckerby, E Jess, W Boland, M Hall, R Genoux, A Ducros, J Flan

LEEDS UNITED v LEICESTER CITY
TICKETS: Seats available
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 1-1, 2-1, 1-1, 2-1, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP
LEEDS UNITED (from): N Marlyn, G Kelly, D Weatherall, P Beasley, R Molemar, A Doolan, R Wallace, M Gossion, M Ford, L Bowyer, I Harte, I Rush, B Deane, A Gray, A Couzens, M Beesley
LEICESTER CITY (from): K Keller, S Grayson, N Lewis, P Keane, C Hill, S Prior, J Watts, M Izzi, G Parker, J Lawrence, S Wilson, S Campbell, M Robins, S Clardie, E Heskey, K Poole, S Taylor, I Marshall

LIVERPOOL v WEST HAM UNITED
TICKETS: Sold out
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 0-0, 5-1, 1-1, 1-0, 2-0, 0-0, 2-0

HOW THEY LINE UP
LIVERPOOL (from): D James, J McAteer, S I Bjornelybe, P Babb, M Wright, D Matteo, J Barnes, M Thomas, S McKensan, P Berger, M Kennedy, R Fowler, S Collymore, A Warner, M Carragher, N Ruddock, S Harkness
WEST HAM UNITED (from): L Mikosko, T Breacker, M Ripper, S Blic, S Potts, J Dicks, D Williamson, I Bishop, J Moncur, K Rowland, F Lampard, M Bowen, M Hughes, S Jones, F Redouciou, H Porfiri, M Newell, L Sealey, S Laidies

MIDDLESBROUGH v SOUTHAMPTON
TICKETS: Sold out
10-YEAR RECORD: 3-3, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP
MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G Walsh, N Coy, D White, S Vickers, Emerson, R Mudge, Jumbo, P Riviere, C Fleming, C Blackmore, C Hignett, M Beck, P Stamp, B Roberts, J A Ffrench, A Moore, P Wilson, C Morris
SOUTHAMPTON (from): M Taylor, P Benali, C Lundkvist, L Maddison, U van Gobbel, A Nelson, E Barkov, R Slater, M Le Tissier, E Denstad, D Branson, G Watson, J Magilton, M Robinson, S Charlton, S Braham

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v CHELSEA
TICKETS: Seats available
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 1-0, 1-1, 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 5-1, 0-0, 2-5

HOW THEY LINE UP
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, D Lytle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chetty, D Phillips, A I Haslam, N Clough, I Woan, D Saunders, K Campbell, B Roy, C Bart-Williams, C Allen, N Jerlan, C Armstrong, J Walker, V Warner, T Wright
CHELSEA (from): F Grodz, M Duberry, F Loboey, E Johnson, D Petreanu, E Newton, R di Matteo, D Wise, A Myers, G Zola, M Hughes, G Viali, C Burtley, K Hitchcock, F Sinclair, M Nicholls, N Clement, S Mako

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v EVERTON
TICKETS: Seats available
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 1-0, 1-1, 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 5-1, 0-0, 2-5

HOW THEY LINE UP
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressman, P Asherton, I Nolan, D Walker, D Stefanovic, G Hyde, M Pemberton, G Whittingham, R Binkler, A Booth, R Humphreys, S Nicol, S Oakes, O Donaldson, D Hirst, M Clarke, O Trustall, W Collins
EVERTON (from): N Southall, E Barrett, T Phelan, D Watson, D Unsworth, A Kanchelskis, G Speed, A Grant, N Barry, D Ferguson, M Branch, R Dunne, M Hotzger, A Linpar, P Gerrard

SUNDERLAND v ARSENAL
TICKETS: Seats available
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP
SUNDERLAND (from): L Perez, G Hall, D Kubicki, R Ord, A McVie, D Kelly, D Williams, P Bracewell, M Gray, M Bridges, J Mullin, C Russell, S Aiston, J Eriksson, P Hockingbottom, D Preece
ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, L Dixon, A Lingham, A Adams, P Vieira, M Keown, S Bould, N Winterburn, R Parfior, D Platt, P Merson, D Bergkamp, M Rose, R Garde, J Hartson, J Luric, P Shaw

LEADING SCORERS
16: I Wright (Arsenal)
15: A Shearer (Newcastle United)
11: R Fowler (Liverpool), D York (Aston Villa)
10: L Ferdinand (Newcastle United)
9: E Ekoku (Wimbledon), M Le Tissier (Southampton)
8: F Ravanello (Middlesbrough), O G Solskjaer (Manchester United)
8: D Dublin (Coventry City), G Viali (Chelsea)

CHAMPIONSHIP BETTING
7-6: Manchester United, 5-2: Liverpool, 5-1: Arsenal, 11-2: Newcastle United, 10-1: Aston Villa, 12-1: Chelsea, 16-1: Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON v DERBY COUNTY
TICKETS: Seats available
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 4-0, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP
WIMBLEDON (probable): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, D Blackwell, C Perry, N Ardley, V Jones, R Earle, O Leonardson, M Gayle, E Brown
DERBY COUNTY (from): R Houli, M Taylor, J Laursen, D Yates, G Roney, C Prazal, D Powell, R van der Laan, C Dally, A Asanovic, D Sturridge, M Gabbadini, R Williams, P Simpson, L Carsey, S Flynn, A Ward, M Carbone, D Wassall, J Kavanagh, P McGrath

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v MANCHESTER UNITED
TICKETS: Sold out
10-YEAR RECORD: 4-0, 1-1, 2-2, 1-2, 1-2, 1-1, 0-1, 0-1, 4-1

HOW THEY LINE UP
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, S Campbell, C Calderwood, C Wilson, D Howells, R Fox, A Sinton, R Rosenthal, S Carr, S Nethercott, J Edinburgh, E Baardson, A Nielsen, R Allen, N Fenn, R Vega, D Austin
MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, G Neville, D May, R Johnson, D Beckham, N Butt, R Keane, R Giggs, A Cole, E Garbano, O G Solskjaer, P Scholes, B McClair, K Paborstky, R van der Gouw, B Thornley

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION
Today
10.40pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (nightlights)
Tomorrow
11am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday
3pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday
Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester United (live)
The official internet site of the FA Premier League is at <http://www.fapremier.com/>

FOOTBALL

Taken over by City gents playing a dangerous game

An extraordinary week, indeed an almost surreal five years, comes to an end at St James' Park. Kevin Keegan's departure, his ability to drop out of sight, does nothing to defuse the emotions engendered around Newcastle United, or to diminish the fact that his emerald drive and Sir John Hall's commercial acumen had propelled the fallen club higher than most people had imagined was possible.

It was sport fuelled by money and it was the second period of Kevin Keegan's Pied Piper effect, the first as a player, and he is so much younger than the past two months made him appear that it is by no means fantasy to rule out a third coming on Tyneside.

Meanwhile, the fusion of money, of television, of what once was a game, is being taken over, we are told, by the City gentlemen who, with the £150 million Newcastle United flotation in mind, apparently feel they have the power, the knowledge and the right to determine who should manage the footballing affairs of an institution.

Heaven help us. Heaven help the Football League that, curiously enough, was founded by William McGregor at Aston Villa, where Newcastle's next era, temporarily under Terry McDermott and Arthur Cox, begins at three o'clock this afternoon.

The manner in which professionalism has come through 100 years has always been to have its business run — many would say misrun — by people whose business brains may not have been of the very highest calibre, but who at least had an appreciation of the peculiar aspects of football finance and who had an allegiance to the colours, an affection for the tribalism, of England's football clubs.

Sir John Hall, whether he stays as chairman or defects into some kind of honorary presidency, has been a man of both worlds, an entrepreneur of outstanding achievement and a Geordie, brought up with football in his mind as much as coal dust beneath his fingernails. Elsewhere, those looking for quick returns

ROB HUGHES



Weekend View

should beware. Manchester United shares are too expensive, all the rest may prove fallible.

In London, Alan Sugar, a man who has found the addictive aspect of football irresistible, even through periods of hostility, faces a weekend in which his enforced loosening of the purse-strings, his spending of £10.5 million in recent weeks, is put to immediate test. Last week his club, Tottenham Hotspur, went out of the FA Cup, revenue lost. Tomorrow, facing Manchester United for a second time, Tottenham need to win to

'What do they know of football; what, deep down, do they care?'

maintain faith in their ability to qualify for the UEFA Cup next season; to regain income. Sugar now knows the fickleness of football speculation; it is not like selling computer terminals; it rests on the fallibility, the inspiration of individuals in a team game.

Yet, in Newcastle and indeed at the City Ground, in Nottingham, we are told that managers, the men who live by results, can be chosen on the whim of people providing the "new money" in the sport. What do they really know of football and its fortunes? What, deep down, do they care? What is the attraction, other than the perception that football's new, television-inflated importance, is a licence to profit.

One fears that there is a transient nature to this whole marriage between football and high finance. One looks abroad, to Milan, where Silvio Berlusconi, prime minister for such a short time, is panicking now that he has hired and discarded two managers in a matter of months, and still the team cannot convert defeat into instant victory, still the price of his acquisition of the club and his pride falls.

One looks to France, to the rapid rise and collapse of Marseilles. Its president, Bernard Tapie, brought business practices, sharp practices, to football. He is in court next week, another chapter in the disgracing of the club that his money lifted to European Cup fame and which, in that hour of glory, was found to have corruptly "bought" matches.

"Everything that existed before me is still going on," Tapie said yesterday. "I intend, in the court, to name all the personalities in French football because I invented nothing."

He alleges that, Samson-like, he will pull down the pillars, he will testify in pique to corruption right through the club structure, showing that the malpractices that he brought from his business world to the so-called sporting league are rife. It does not end there.

Money and ignorance have fuelled sport for decades and the men responsible have been João Havelange and Juan Antonio Zamarranch, the Latins who rule international football and the Olympic movement; not because they corrupted the ideals, but because they recognised and welcomed the triangle of sport-sponsorship-television ... their Latin wives opened up major sport to major business.

And in Newcastle, it has an almost frightening extra element. Frank Clark, the Geordie who left Nottingham Forest for Manchester City, identifies it as "quasi-religious fervour". Fittingly, this lunchtime, Cardinal Basil Hume, who usually declines requests to discuss his lifelong passion for Newcastle United, is to pontificate on the subject on Radio 5 Live. Might he offer a prayer for football as we have known it?

Hard man now allying brain to brawn

STUART PEARCE

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

By Andrew Longmore

Power seems to have gone to Stuart Pearce's head. As a manager, he has revealed a seam of intelligence and humour not often evident in his work on the field. From the moment he told viewers to *Match of the Day* that his first Nottingham Forest side, jostled down on the back of an envelope in his kitchen late at night, looked great until he counted a dozen names, Pearce has shown a nice line in self-deprecation and brought a refreshingly innocent tone to the all too serious business of football management.

The problem is that Forest might need all 12 of Pearce's original team at the City Ground today to combat a Chelsea side that is just beginning to flow. The miracles dried up after the unlikely defeat of Arsenal in Pearce's first match as player-manager and, though results have improved since the departure of Frank Clark to Manchester City, not even Psycho's uncomplicated style of man-management can hide the deficiencies of a team short of firepower or invigorate a club reduced to impotence by internal power struggles.

Pearce has been caught up in the middle of it all. This week, he lost his chaperone, Alan Hill, the assistant manager, who followed Clark to Maine Road. But while his instinct is to roll up his sleeves and get on with the job, it would be naive of any incoming consortium either to take Pearce's presence for granted or ignore his influence. Pearce's popularity on the streets of Nottingham is unquestioned. At times over the past five years, it has seemed Pearce was Forest and another win this afternoon will strengthen his hand — and his confidence — immeasurably when he decides later this month whether to drop



A City Ground favourite, Pearce has also earned admiration throughout football

the "caretaker" from his managerial title.

Pearce said his decision would be based on the effect the responsibility was having on his football and his personal life. He would not need colour pictures of a haggard Kevin Keegan to remind him of the toll modern football management exacts, be it on the sleepy Trent or the passionate Tyne. He has seen Brian Clough disintegrate before his eyes. For a start, his wife, Liz, will have to hire someone else to muck out the

horses. For another thing, the phone never stops ringing.

"Just when you think that's it for the day," Pearce said recently, "it goes again and someone wants to buy your reserve team goalkeeper."

Less surprising is the news that his form remains unbroken. Like a good old car, there is not much that can go wrong with Pearce's football, even if the surging runs and his thumping left-footed strikes that characterised his early days are a little less frequent in his 35th year.

Ask any foreign player to draw an identikit picture of the typical English footballer and the image would be readily identifiable. Pearce is easily caricatured and easy to despise, too, the ultimate product of a system that reverses physique over technique, stamina over skill.

A full-page colour photograph in a recent issue of *Four Four Two* would have most of his critics rolling in the aisles. Pearce is trying to control the ball, with his left foot, of course. He is managing.

'His strengths have become a proud symbol of the English game'

ing it, just, but the seemingly simple act is demanding such overwhelming physical exertion, such monumental concentration, backside out, bullneck-size thighs taut, arms arched for exaggerated balance, it is reminiscent of a circus artist performing a breathtaking new trick. "And now, ladies and gentlemen, for the first time ever, Psycho will attempt to trap the ball..." As far as you can tell, there is no one within ten yards of him.

At times, often when etched in relief against classy opponents on an international stage, Pearce's clumsiness has been an embarrassment. Yet, his robust skills have been treasured by Bobby Robson and Terry Venables, and valued enough for Glenn Hoddle to persuade him out of international retirement last year.

Pearce has not tried to embellish his game. Like his taste in music, which has rarely strayed far from The Stranglers, his football is resolutely unfancy, as Gianfranco Zola will doubtless find out this afternoon.

Zola, whose diminutive frame Pearce will try to locate and stiffen, will have met some hard men in his time and he is quite able to handle himself. But Pearce is in a different class. He is not sly or dirty. He is not, on the whole, a shirt tugger or heel-clipper. He just knows that true happiness can only be found when ball and man become one and both have been dispatched into Row B.

Pearce, for all the teeth-baring and fist-clenching immortalised at Wembley in Euro 96, has never encouraged the Psycho worship any more than he swallows sentimental rubbish about loyalty. Pearce has been at Forest for ten years, loves the club and the people. "But," he once said, "there's no way I'd accept £100 a week just because I like it here."

The difference now is that, since scoring his soul-cleansing penalty against Spain, his strengths have become common currency, not a source of shame but a proud symbol of the English game. Everyone admires Pearce, for just what he is. Nothing more, nothing less.

Forest fear reaction from supporters at takeover vote

CLUB officials are bracing themselves for a difficult afternoon at the City Ground as Nottingham Forest shareholders, who blocked a takeover bid for the club five days ago, bear the brunt of ill-feeling from supporters (Richard Hobson writes). Forest, second from bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, entertain Chelsea and Mel Hart, chairman of the supporters' club, appealed for calm.

"It has crossed our minds that there might be trouble, but we cannot afford to become another Brighton and Hove Albion," he said. Brighton were deducted two points earlier in the season after crowd misbehaviour at the Goldstone Ground.

Last Saturday, as Forest knocked Ipswich Town out of the FA Cup, shareholders, who have their own enclosure, came in for barracking as expectations grew that they would reject a £13 million offer of immediate cash from the consortium headed by Sandy Anderson. Two days later, they followed the predicted course as they failed to

give Anderson the required 75 per cent approval.

Some supporters feel that a minority of shareholders (79 of the 203 voted against Anderson) are out for personal gain, awaiting a bid from a second consortium that includes Nigel Wray, the part owner of Saracens RFC, and Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman, which could net them more than £13,000 each. Yesterday, the supporters' club, in protest, staged a mock meeting at which the Anderson bid was accepted.

In reality, the future remains uncertain amid rumours that an American consortium, led by Albert Scardino, a spokesman for Bill Clinton in the 1992 primary elections, will submit a bid next week, and that Anderson will draw up a fresh offer.

Andy Lowe, editor of the *Tricky Tree* fanzine, said: "We are frustrated because the shareholders had the chance to sort the matter out once and for all and they turned it down. Meanwhile, we are heading

towards relegation." Irving Korn, the Forest chairman, urged supporters to be "both patient and understanding".

The most significant consequence of the week's activity is that Stuart Pearce, the caretaker manager, is still unable to add to his squad. "Rund Gullit [the Chelsea manager] can put himself in the team when he likes, otherwise he can spend millions of pounds. I would love to be in that position," Pearce said.

Tomas Brolin, the Sweden international, was yesterday finally given permission by Leeds United to train with his former club, Parma, for the next two weeks. Brolin has not played for Leeds under George Graham, the new manager, and is keen to leave the English club he joined for £4.5 million from Parma in November 1995.

"He is training with Parma until January 23," Bill Fotherby, the Leeds chairman, said. "We'll know more about any possible permanent deal after that."

Footballer accused of cocaine use

ADAM TANNER, the Ipswich Town utility player, has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association after testing positive for cocaine (Russell Kempton writes). Tanner, 23, could face a lengthy suspension because the drug is regarded as an aid to performance.

Last night the player expressed his "immense regret" adding: "I would like to apologise wholeheartedly to both the supporters and staff of Ipswich Town and also my family."

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said: "It is only when the player is unwilling to help himself that punitive action is considered and taken against first-time offenders. Although there is a desire to help players, there is a grading of penalties and these increase when the drug in question is performance-enhancing."

Jay Noley, of Charlton Athletic, is the only other player known to have tested positive this season from more than 300 samples.

Ferguson keeps watchful eye on Wimbledon's progress

MANCHESTER United go to Tottenham Hotspur tomorrow with Alex Ferguson, their manager, proclaiming that the title race is at last properly under way (Peter Ball writes). At Maine Road, Manchester City are virtually starting their season all over again as they go into their first game of the new year, this time under Frank Clark.

"The race is on," Ferguson said. "We're not at the tickish stage yet, where everything is magnified, but it is an interesting league. You can't take anything for granted — you have to perform well in all games to get the consistency to keep in there."

At the moment, there are half a dozen teams jostling in the leading pack. Ferguson believes that will come down to three or four, possibly including Wimbledon, who impressed him greatly with their away win against Bolton Wanderers in the Coca-Cola Cup on Wednesday.

They will be if they stay clear of injuries. They are well-coached, well organised, and they are light years away from the image they had a few years ago. They are still very competitive, but they don't have that belligerent attitude towards officialdom and opponents they used to have."

Most sides will still fear United, providing they stay in touch until the "tickish" stage arrives. "The experience we've had over the last three years must help us," Ferguson said.

Tottenham, though, may provide a tough test tomorrow, with United troubled by injuries, particularly in defence. If Pallister is fit, and Irwin is not, Ferguson will consider playing three at the back, not a formation that United have adopted with much success.

While United contemplate challenging for their third title in four years — and their third double in four years — City are facing a battle against relegation as they meet Crystal Palace today. It will be Clark's first match in charge, two

weeks after he was appointed, the gap heightening the feeling of a new beginning.

"Yes, except we've only got 22 games left," Clark said. "I'd be quite happy if we could start again, scrapping the previous 24 games. Time is a concern. There is not a lot left and we're not in a good position."

Clark is used to inheriting clubs in a poor position, although he feels that turning City round is likely to be a harder task than he faced on arrival at Nottingham Forest.

Ironically, in the week that Kevin Keegan left Newcastle United, City begin under Clark in much the same position as Newcastle were when Keegan arrived, and with much the same weight of expectation.

Blackburn Rovers will reject a transfer request from their goalkeeper, Shay Given. "He'll go in the summer," Tony Parkes, the acting manager, said. "but he's got to stay until then. We have got to have two top-class goalkeepers."

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SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1997

Defeat of Ivanisevic carries Briton to second successive final and into leading 20

Henman strides on towards the top

By DAVID MILLER

TIM HENMAN'S march to a place in the world's top 20 came at the expense of Goran Ivanisevic, the world No 3, who critically missed an open backhand at the net when in a winning position in their semi-final of the Sydney International yesterday.

Yet if it was an error that allowed Henman to advance to his second ATP final in consecutive weeks, it must be stressed that his victory bristled with a steadily mounting self-assurance.

The temperamental Croatian is the highest-ranked player to be defeated by the upwardly mobile Henman, who was scheduled to meet the unseeded Carlos Moya, of Spain, in the final in the early hours of this morning. He beat Ivanisevic 4-6, 7-6, 6-1 thanks to a blistering tie-break performance in the second set, which he took 7-1.

The 22-year-old Henman,

ranked No 24 at the start of the week after reaching his first ATP final in Qatar last weekend, will become the first British player in the top 20 since Buster Mottram was ranked No 15 in 1983. His eight match wins are more than any other ATP player this year and his victory in Sydney was marked by outstanding tactical sense against the powerful Ivanisevic. There were times when Henman's service was the more formidable.

Here was no tyro up against the big shot. These were two players meeting on level terms, the measure of Henman's improvement since he began last year at a lowly world No 99. No player on the circuit can now confront him with equanimity for his game is acquiring an impressive all-round quality. Yet there is no denying the element of good fortune that he enjoyed in the middle of the second set.

Ivanisevic had taken the first set on a single service

break. Henman looked detached and almost casual as Ivanisevic served out for 6-4, Henman hitting loose ground shots wide on either flank.

Suddenly, though, the flow of the game switched as Henman now found a higher gear. With Ivanisevic serving at 1-0 down in the second set, Henman pulled him back to deuce from 40-15 and struck a fine return for advantage.

On the next point, his deep cross-court backhand seemed to fall just wide, but was not called: 2-0. In a fury, Ivanisevic, who has yet to justify his talent by winning a grand-slam event, smashed his racket into pieces on the hard court, then kicked it away. He was duly warned.

Henman served to 3-0, but Ivanisevic, recomposed, recovered to make it 3-3 and then 4-4. In the next game, Henman, trailing 40-15 on his service, hit a short ball to Ivanisevic's backhand. With a choice of passing Henman on

either side, and then serving for the match, Ivanisevic put the ball in the net.

At 5-5, Henman was again 40-15 down on his service and then advantage down. Yet, with that steadiness that has become his hallmark, he survived the crisis and forced a tie-break.

In this he raced to 5-1, winning points against service with a glorious deep forehand and a backhand cross-court pass. A dejected Ivanisevic double-faulted for 6-1 and Henman served out to level the match.

The final set was hardly a contest, Ivanisevic's concentration evaporating as that drowning spaniel look enveloped him.

Henman is the first Briton to reach the Sydney final, formerly the New South Wales Open, since Fred Perry lost to Jack Crawford in 1934. The only British winner was Wilburforce Vaughan-Eaves in 1902.

"I don't know what he was up to, and I was aware he was getting frustrated," Henman said. "But I couldn't waste time concentrating on him. You've got to think about what you're doing."

Focus, the vogue word nowadays, is one of Henman's several strengths. "There will be times in 1997 when I'll lose and my ranking will drop," he said. "But, as Pete Sampras says, it is not where you are ranked in March and April that counts, it's where you stand in December."

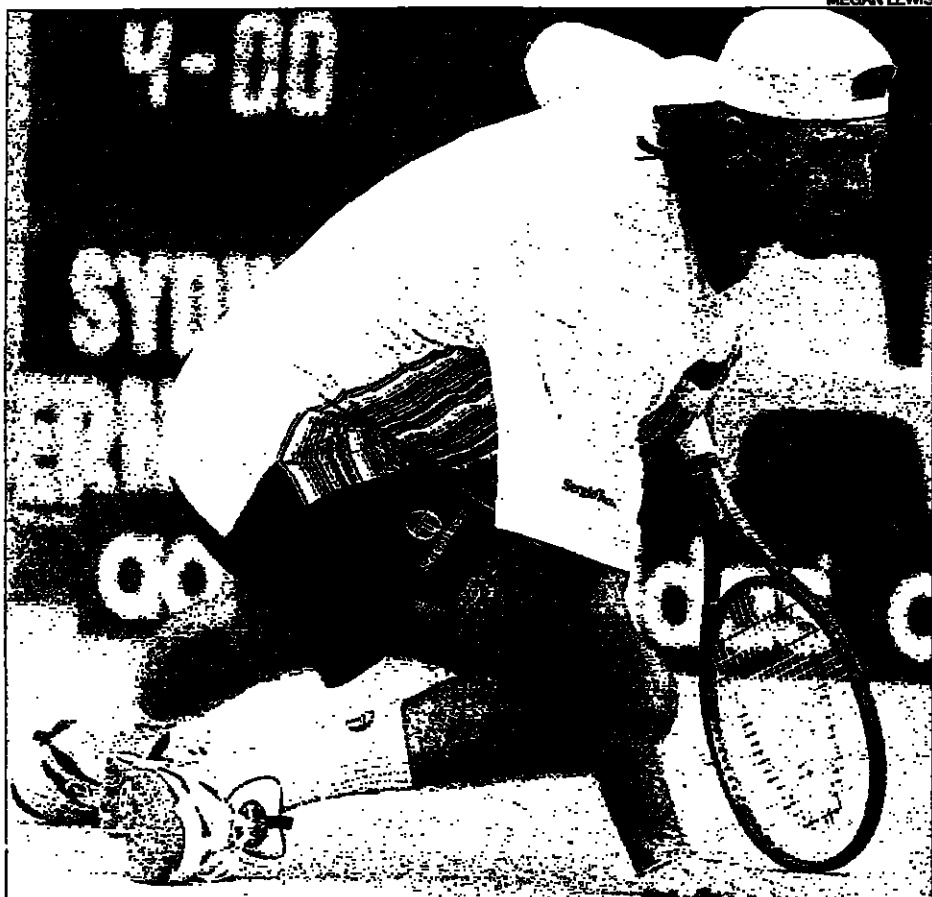
The partnership with David Felgate, his coach, who is now working with him full-time, is producing obvious dividends, though Henman remains well aware that there is much still to accomplish, not least the advice from Boris Becker during the Grand Slam Cup in Munich, that he must get to the net more often.

Yesterday, though, he was trying to concentrate his efforts on winning his first final.

"It is easy to let your focus switch to the grand-slam event," he said. "But I am trying to keep my head screwed on, to play one match at a time. I am looking forward to playing in Melbourne, but for the moment I am here in Sydney."



Henman puts maximum effort into a backhand drive during his victory over Ivanisevic yesterday



Ivanisevic comes a cropper during his semi-final defeat by Henman in Sydney

Liverpool decline offers for unsettled Redknapp

By DAVID MADDOCK

LIVERPOOL confirmed last night that they have had offers from two different clubs for Jamie Redknapp, their unsettled England international. They will not, however, entertain a transfer, despite the prospect of a fee in the region of £5 million.

Redknapp has started only four first-team games this season and has recently become depressed with his Anfield prospects. Regular relegation to the bench, he said, has inhibited his England prospects. Worse, an injury that has ruled him out for the past three weeks, has frustrated him even further.

Before an ankle injury forced him into the treatment room, he advanced the notion of a loan period, both to recover match fitness and get away from the Liverpool supporters, who gave him an unkind reception in his last full match.

Redknapp will not be allowed to leave, even though

Roma, Fiorentina and Tottenham Hotspur have all made persistent inquiries. Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, exasperated with the speculation that has built up around Redknapp recently, attempted to put the record straight yesterday by suggesting that he will soon become a first-team regular again.

Rob Hughes 51
Fired-up Pearce 51
Watchful Ferguson 51

There have, he said, been offers, but Redknapp is seen as integral to the future of the club. "Roma made inquiries and other clubs have made contact but there is no way we are at all interested," Evans said. "We have made it clear that he is not for sale. Jamie is only a young player and a full international. We will not let players of that quality leave."

Evans hinted that

Redknapp will soon get his chance when he has recovered from the niggling injury, probably against Aston Villa next Saturday.

"Michael Thomas is suspended after this weekend and so Jamie will get a chance if he is fit. When he gets back in, if he gets a couple of decent games under his belt, he might never get out of the side again. He could be back for good," Evans said.

"I appreciate he wants to play football and he will get it if he is patient. He has never asked for a move and he will not be leaving because he is a quality player. He will get back into the side soon enough."

Evans is concerned to settle a Liverpool side that has had several disappointing results recently. "We have got to be positive," he said. "We are still top of the Premiership and somebody has to take this league by the scruff of the neck soon — why not us?"

Dalglish slips quietly back into Newcastle reckoning

By DAVID MADDOCK

RUMOUR, speculation, confusion... just another day in the life of Newcastle United Football Club, post-Kevin Keegan. A club of its size that is searching for a manager will always invite intense interest. Yesterday, it bordered on hysteria.

Claim and counter-claim surrounded the quest for a successor to Keegan. The reality, though, was summed up in one sentence from Bobby Robson, the man on whom Newcastle's search briefly seemed to centre. "Right job, wrong time," he said, after a day in which it was reported that Newcastle returned with a second offer to tempt him back to his native North East.

Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, was said to have flown to Spain to seek further talks with the former England manager. Robson, though, spent most of the day in meetings with his Barcelona president, José Luis Núñez. Robson is contracted to

Barcelona for two seasons and yesterday he was attempting to clarify his position. It seems that Núñez satisfied Robson that his future lay with a club regarded as among the biggest in Europe. Indeed, Robson indicated that he had been given greater scope in his role as coach. This, he said, meant that he had to decline Newcastle's offer.

"It's an honour and very flattering that a club like Newcastle should make me an offer," Robson said. "They're a phenomenal club and I've a passionate about football. It is highly tempting and a wonderful opportunity to return to the place where I came from, but I can only be in one place at one time — it's the right job at the wrong time."

If there was a hint of regret in Robson's tone, then that was repeated by John Toshack, another British manager plying his trade in Spain. There were further claims yesterday that the Welshman

was now Newcastle's prime target, but he, too, explained that should Newcastle make an offer, it would come at the wrong time.

"I'm flattered to be linked with such a job as that at Newcastle, but I must honour my contract [with Deportivo La Coruña], and unless things change then that means I must remain until it expires at the end of this season. Anyway, I have heard nothing," Toshack said.

The third candidate on the Newcastle shortlist is Kenny Dalglish, and the silence from him is perhaps far more significant than the sound of rejection from Spain. There are few managers in England equipped to follow the charismatic Keegan, and Dalglish is one of them. Most important of all, he actually wants the job. He has confided to close friends that it would be an ideal return to football for him. Publicly, though, he was as tight-lipped as ever.

Elements of surprise leave a cloud over sports schedule

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

"CYCLONE" stops play" notices went up in New Plymouth yesterday, at the height of the Antipodean summer, halting England's cricket match against a New Zealand Academy XI. Too much snow in Bad Kleinkirchheim, Austria, forced the women's World Cup downhill skiing to be cancelled, and in Chamonix, France, final practice for the men's downhill was stopped because of poor visibility. Has the world's weather gone mad?

In England, at least, the outlook remained predictable. Football again bore the brunt of the big freeze, with 18 first-class fixtures, including 12 in the Nationwide League, falling victim to the Arctic conditions. Rugby union lost Sale's match against Saracens, in the Courage Clubs Championship first division, while the horse racing meetings at Ascot and Warwick were also ruled non-starters.

The Academy XI had concluded its innings on 201 in the one-day match before torrential rain washed

out the rest of proceedings. Drena, unwelcome as she was unseasonal, also forced the abandonment of the quarter-finals of the New Zealand open tennis tournament in Auckland. Jan-Michael Gambill, of the United States, led Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, by two games to one when they had to flee for cover.

It was bad, too, in Bad Kleinkirchheim. A heavy overnight snowfall had made the piste awkward and dense fog only added to the degree of difficulty facing the women downhillers. After the first

seven skiers had descended into the darkness, the race had to be abandoned. "The safety of the girls is paramount," Hans Pumm, the Austria coach, said. "It was impossible."

The men could see little in Chamonix, either. Even though the weather was fair and the temperature well above freezing, a thick mist quickly enveloped the upper part of the course at the French Alpine resort. It did not please Alberto Tomba, of Italy, the temperamental world and Olympic champion.

He is scheduled to race in the slalom race tomorrow, but a spokesman for him said yesterday: "He will travel here and decide on the spot whether to start or give up."

What a trooper. The international rugby union match in Cardiff today appears to be unaffected, with the under-20s heading at the Arms Park paying the way for Wales to take on United States. Barring a hurricane, pea-souper, fire, brimstone or a plague of frogs overnight, the game should go ahead.

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SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1997

Why Anne will live for ever

On Monday *The Times* begins the serialisation of the unexpurgated edition of *The Diary of a Young Girl*.



Today Julia
Neuberger
celebrates the
lasting appeal
of Anne Frank's
thoroughly
modern voice

This month sees the publication of a new edition of Anne Frank's diary, 50 years after it first came out. The very freshness, the depth of feeling and the lack of sentimentality of this new, much longer diary make it clear why Anne Frank should be regarded not only as a teenage girl with a precocious talent for a poignant memoir, but as a fine and substantial writer, who never reached her peak of expression because of her tragically short life.

The new material — about 30 per cent has been added, which Anne's father had edited out — makes it instantly engaging to older, more jaded palates as well as remaining as enthralling as it always was for younger readers.

I first read the diary when I was about 11. It had a particular resonance for me, because my mother had been a refugee from Nazi Germany, and had got her younger brother out of Germany when he was only 13. My father's mother, Anna Schwab, had also been deeply involved in refugee rescue work before the war. So I grew up surrounded by the German accents of refugees who had come to this country, including members of my family.

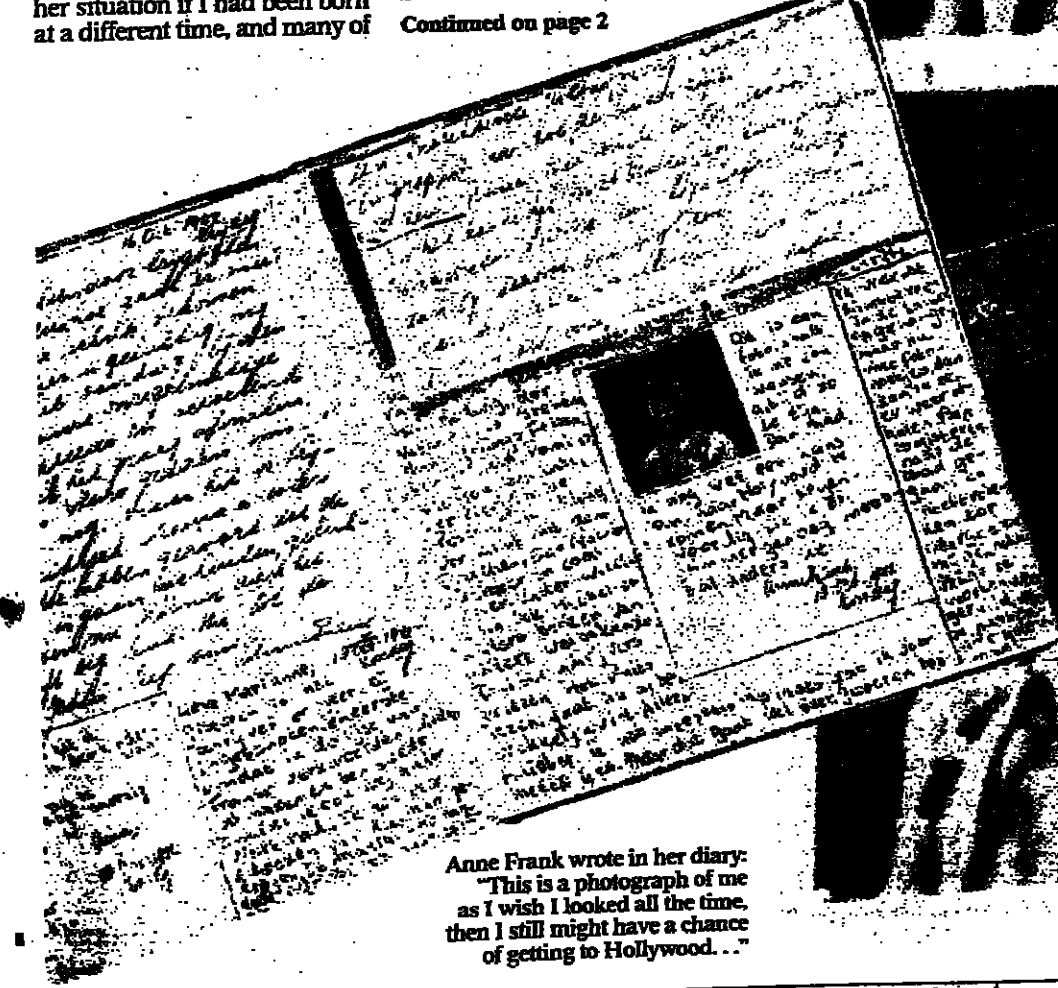
Anne Frank's original diary was not only fascinating and moving, it was also my history, my story. I could have been in her situation if I had been born at a different time, and many of

my relatives suffered her fate. So I might have been thought to have particular reasons to respond to the diary, except that I was not alone in reading and re-reading it in my early teenage years.

Many of my friends did the same, and most did not share my family's history. It was, instead, that we could recognise the authentic voice of a young teenager. We had responded to Anne's grumpiness as much as to her tragedy. We had imagined ourselves in hiding, but we had also heard her musings on friends at school before she left. We knew that she was writing out of experience.

Reading this new version, with all its additions which Otto Frank had removed for reasons of modesty and respect for the memories of the dead, makes that authenticity, that voice of experience, all the stronger a voice. This teenager is by no means meekly mouthed, or saintly. She could have been one of us, surprisingly modern and surprisingly honest as she was. Although my response in middle age is not what it was as a young girl, because I know both from reading and from conversation, about so many more people's personal experiences of the Holocaust, Anne Frank's diary still has a magic for me. It still has a freshness, and a bite — and a power to

Continued on page 2



Anne Frank wrote in her diary:
"This is a photograph of me
as I wish I looked all the time,
then I still might have a chance
of getting to Hollywood..."

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Jermyn Street runs through the heart of the oak-panelled world between Piccadilly and Pall Mall. Before London became cool and slavish to the Armanis and Versaces, it was the only place for a man to shop.

Snaking between Regent Street and St James', it is lined with heavy initials and big-game names: Harvie and Hudson, New and Lingwood, T.M. Lewin, Turnbull and Asser. They speak of strong men in soft shirts, horny toes in cashmere socks, the iron representatives of Empire in fine wool suitings. This is where Bertie Wooster would have come to research his one venture into journalism: "What the Well-Dressed Man is Wearing," a piece for his Aunt Dahlia's paper, *Milady's Boudoir*.

Little has changed since then, and least of all that uniquely

British creature, the Gentleman's Outfitter.

Gentleman's Outfitters are the angostura bitters in the pink gin of menswear. Though they all have soft, white hands and that creepy, "I must say, Sir looks very good in stripes" attitude, they break down into essentially three different types: the camp and friendly, the camp and haughty, and the honest artisan. They can now be found in shire stores across the country, but Jermyn Street is to them as Lord's is to the cricketer.

The camp and friendly type I came across, when taken to buy my first sports jacket. My father, who had been reared on the Lincolnshire fens, thought I needed something hairy. "Ooh, something hairy, eh?" said the excited salesman, a combination of Ian McKaskill and John Inman. When my father asked whether tailors

SERIOUS SHOPPING GENTLEMAN'S OUTFITTERS

still wanted to know which side a man dressed, the assistant nearly fainted with pleasure.

The camp and haughty type appears in Alan Bennett's play *An Englishman Abroad*. When Coral Browne, the Australian actress, goes shopping for Guy Burgess, the spy, one shop assistant refuses to sell pyjamas for a notorious homosexual and traitor. When Browne calls him a stuck-up English prig, the assistant puffs out his chest and replies, "Madam, we are a Polish firm."

The last sort is the beetling, diminutive artisan, obviously more at home in a workshop than front of house. Dressed only in black and white, they love the sepulchral labyrinths of shoe lasts



BY PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

which stretch out behind their shops like bank vaults. For them the shop is a confessional where no questions are asked and nothing is passed on. Whereas he does every-

thing else with an arrogant sense of tradition, the Gentleman's Outfitter still has not got the hang of sales. For him, a sale is an admittance of failure, nothing to be happy about. He puts a diminutive sign up in his window, then stands behind his counter looking as though he has just snatched his longjohns.

Twice a year, in the new year and late summer, the Jermyn Street G.O. must deal with tourists intrigued by the Olde England style of his shop, and club boses, who hover shiftily around the discount shirts in their tight-fitting overcoats, their cheeks red from frost and claret.

While their richer friends head for the country for the weekends,

these men are the poor relations who are left to paw the ground outside their clubs, lurching for Monday when they reopen and the warm greeting of doorman, barman and old fives partners.

Their lives peaked sometime during a Colts cricket match, aged 15, and they have been grasping ever since for those faint whiffs of mutton, linoleum and well-starched shirts.

The Jermyn Street sales provide them with this as well as a handsome, hard-wearing suit for as little as £200. Well cut, plain or striped, it will look better and last longer than anything from the noisier outlets on Bond Street.

At Harvie and Hudson, for example, a covert coat, ideal for the races, goes for only £325, a bargain when you compare an equivalent designer number. In New and Lingwood, which straddles the

Piccadilly Arcade, a silk dressing gown is £300 down from £400. All you need is the cigarette holder, maroon glasses, a line in fruity put-downs and bang, Noël Coward. Cashmere socks, city shirts, ties and pyjamas are all down at prices not just reserved for the Duke of Norfolk.

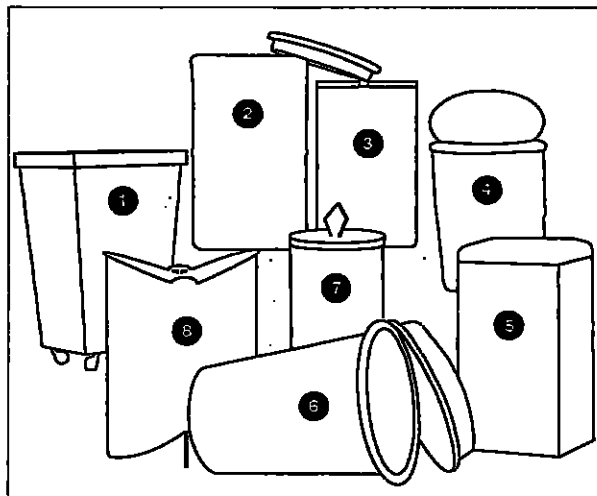
Inside all these shops, however, the outfitters have the hang-dog looks of those gloomy Russian poets condemned to work the salt mines. Thankfully for them, in a couple of weeks the sale signs will disappear, and the usual flannelly fog will envelop the place once more.

Then they can return to behaving like butlers in stately homes, simultaneously superior and grovelling and probably still living with their mothers.

• Giles Coren is away

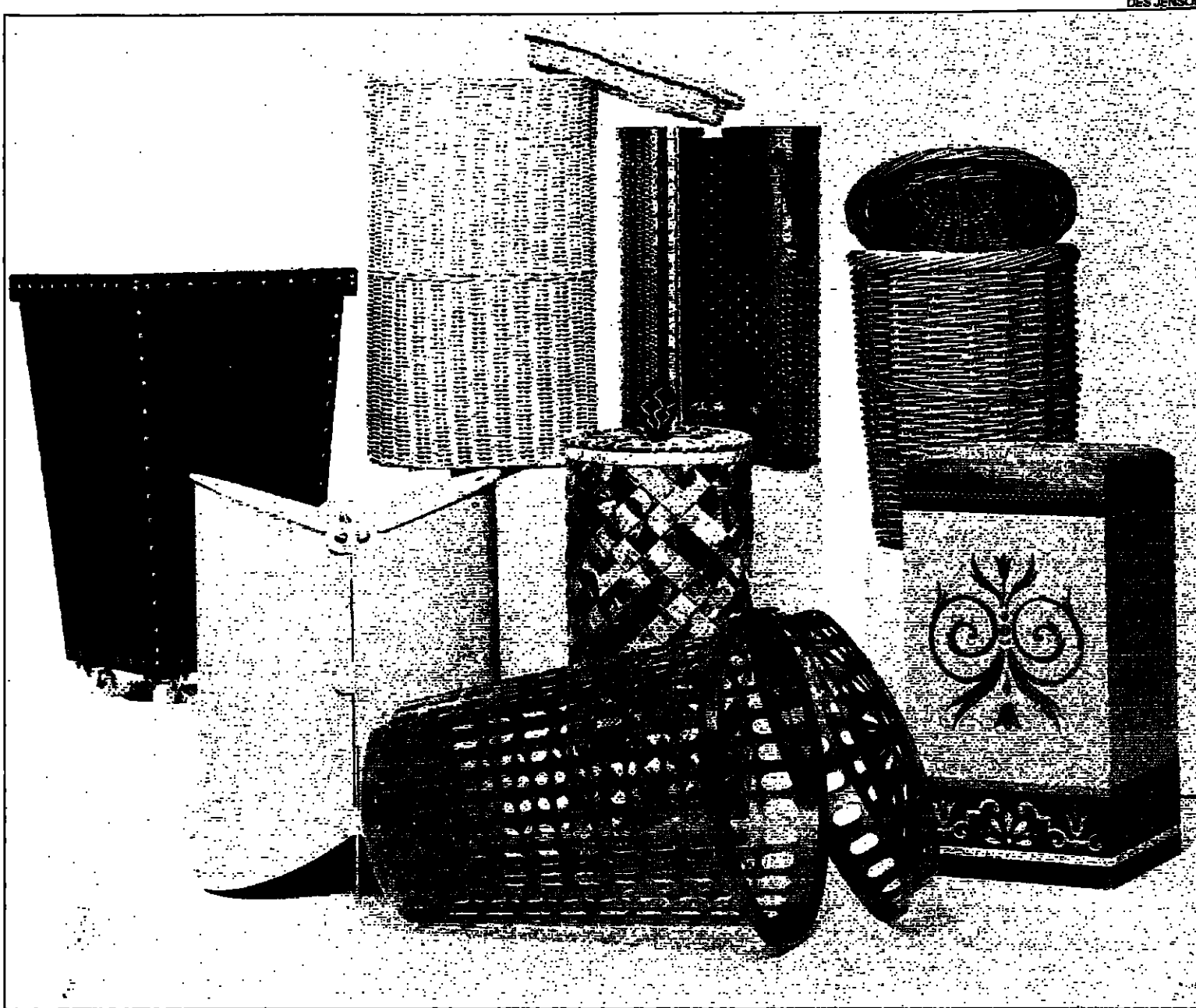
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- 6 Hooley 1950s-style bin in translucent plain red, blue or lilac plastic, £12.99, from Brats, 281 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-351 7874)
- 7 Handwoven patchwork multicoloured laundry basket made of recycled card, designed by Lois Walpole, £125 plus £4.50 p&p (mail order, 0171-538 5308)
- 8 Eclipse birch plywood laundry bin with two sections to separate whites and colours. Each section is also the size of a standard washing machine so you know when it's time to do a wash. It costs £95 from Ocean (mail order, 0800 132985)

ABOVE: Inflatable plastic laundry bin available in luminous orange, yellow or blue, £29, from the Conran Shop, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-589 7401)



'Her father began to disapprove of all that necking'

Continued from page 1

move through the sheer quality of the writing and the absence of sentimentality.

Anne Frank's story is well known. She wrote her diary from her thirteenth birthday until forced to stop when the hiding place in which they had been safe for about two years was raided by the SS on August 4, 1944. The eight people hiding in the Annex to 263 Prinsengracht, Amsterdam, were taken prisoner, along with two of their helpers.

The eight people were Anne; her older sister Margot; her parents Otto and Edith; another family, the Van Pels from Ossendrecht in Germany (called the Van Daan family by Anne Frank); and, lastly, the latecomer Fritz Pfeffer, the dentist called Albert Dussel in the diary, also originally from Germany.

Anne observed them closely, and her strictures on Dussel make for hilarious reading. He had the reputation of adoring children but, in fact, did little but criticise all three young people — and hog the one and only lavatory for large parts of the day.

In a less than kind moment — and one can see why her fellow residents in the Annex did not always think Anne was kind — she wrote a timetable for Dussel's use of the lavatory:

"Dussel now sits on the 'bog', to borrow the expres-

sion, every day at twelve thirty on the dot," it begins. It is the sort of humour, almost *Viz*-like, that would produce as many teenage giggles today.

Anne records her father's falling out with Dussel because of an insult: "Not one of us knows what he said, but it must have been pretty awful," Anne wrote.

The risks were growing greater and, in fact, they must have been betrayed. One is left wondering how much Dussel was to blame for insisting on having fresh air.

The Jews were transported to Westerbork, the transit camp in the north of Holland, from which they were deported on September 3, in the last transport to leave before the war ended.

Three days later, they arrived at Auschwitz in Poland. Margot and Anne were transported from Auschwitz at the end of October to Bergen-Belsen, where conditions were appalling. A typhus epidemic killed Margot and Anne in late February or early March 1945.

Anne's father, Otto, was the only one to survive the camps, of the eight who had been in hiding, and he later devoted himself to publishing his daughter's diary, which appeared in 1947.

The Diary of a Young Girl has been treasured by millions. But its authenticity has frequently been challenged, and Otto Frank and the Nether-



Happy and smiling, Anne Frank (third from right) walking with her family in 1940

lands State Institute for War Documentation, to whom Frank willed Anne's manuscripts, plus the Anne Frank Foundation which inherited the copyrights, have frequently been called to defend it.

As a result, a critical edition was published some years ago, after a series of court cases confirmed its authenticity. That critical edition contains this new material; most readers will have read only the shorter version, published soon after the war.

That volume has enthralled young readers particularly, who have identified with the young girl describing her experiences during the war in occupied Holland. Its freshness of tone, its vivid depiction of the horrors of being in hiding, its matter-of-fact acceptance of the horrors befalling the Jews of Europe, and its daily reflections on many of the less than endearing habits of the residents of the Annex, have always been captivating. But the decision to publish this unabridged version of the diary to the wider public throws a new light on Anne Frank and her writing, which I read and re-read as a girl. As with *Jane Eyre*, when Char-

lotte Brontë wrote about Lowood School, Anne's diary tells a story that is true, memorable, important and strongly personalised. It is a modern classic, not just the moving memoir of a young girl's fate at the hands of the Nazis.

Included in the new version are things that Otto Frank, for a variety of reasons, had omitted from the original version. Here we have Anne discussing her sexuality in a way unexpected in a 13-year-old even now, frankly and unsentimentally. In 1947, open discussion of sexuality was regarded

as shameful, and Otto Frank, altogether understandably, omitted the passages.

But for us modern readers, Anne on the subject of her body, particularly her sexual organs, her periods, her feelings for Peter, a young man of nearly 16 when they were first in hiding, her sense of frustration and her attitudes to paternal disapproval, all add up to a thoroughly modern look at a young girl's world, all the more remarkable because of her enforced limited horizons.

"I've told you more about myself and my feelings than I've ever told a living soul, so

why shouldn't that include sex?" she writes.

It must have been all the worse for the young couple, because they were in hiding: they had nowhere to go to be private.

When Anne writes about her growing closeness to Peter, there is terrific excitement, but also the familiar embarrassment that any teenager would recognise. "Sometimes he comes down to get me, but that's awkward too, because in spite of all his precautions his face turns bright red and he can hardly get the words out of his mouth..."

Mother has virtually forbidden me to go up to Peter's, since, according to her, Mrs van Daan is jealous...

"Do you think Father and Mother would approve of a girl of my age sitting on a divan and kissing a seventeen-and-a-half year old boy? I doubt they would, but I have to trust my own judgment in this matter. It's so peaceful and..."

That was on April 17, 1944. By August, they were in a concentration camp. She never had the chance to grow up completely, to have the sexual experiences she imagined, even to explore further with the gentle Peter, after her father began to disapprove of all that necking.

But it is not only her reflections on sex and sexuality that so grip the modern reader. Another whole area that Otto Frank omitted was the material about the other residents of the Annex, and particularly the unflattering passages about his wife, who died in Auschwitz in early 1945. Anne's relationship with her mother was far from good, and indeed typical of strained relationships between mother and teenage daughter in many families.

The very honesty of its description must have been hard for Otto Frank to take postwar, grieving both for his wife and daughters, and knowing their terrible fate.

The decision to publish now, when almost everyone involved is dead, except for the last of the helpers, Miep Santrouschitz-Gies, is the right one. No one can now be hurt by what is contained in Anne's private diary. Miep knew of it anyway, and is described with

tenderness and gratitude. Everyone else is only a memory, largely immortalised through Anne herself. Yet from this version we get a new picture.

It is an utterly modern work: it allows us to see how a vivid imagination, a firm style, and a gritty determination added up to a burgeoning young writer of skill, with sharp, inquiring, late 20th-

century mind. Had she lived, she would now be 67. One can only imagine that she would be a distinguished writer or journalist, with a sympathetic ear for the young.

Her one work makes it clear that she should have had a glittering career. This was added up to a burgeoning young writer of skill, with sharp, inquiring, late 20th-

makes compelling reading.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Anne Frank evening

with Janet Suzman, Terry Waite and Joely Richardson

TO CELEBRATE the publication of the definitive edition of Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl*, readers of *The Times* are invited to an evening of readings and discussion on Wednesday, February 5, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1 at 7.30pm.

Janet Suzman, Joely Richardson and Terry Waite will read from this unabridged edition of the diary, and Buddy Elias, Anne's only surviving cousin, will discuss the enduring appeal of the diary and his memories of Anne.

There will also be excerpts from Jon Blair's Oscar-winning documentary *Anne Frank Remembered*, and an opportunity for the audience to question the panel.

■ Tickets for the forum at £10 (concessions for OAPs, students and the unemployed at £7.50 on production of appropriate identification), which includes £2 off the price of *The Diary of a Young Girl, Anne Frank, The Definitive Edition* (Viking, £16), are available by phoning 0171-467 1613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-467 1690, or by sending the coupon, with your remittance, to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be bought in person. A percentage of the ticket price will be donated to the Anne Frank Educational Trust.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Prim collars and cuffs can be combined with plunging

necklines, says Heath Brown

Hot under the collar

The current look for women's shirts cannot be achieved just by borrowing a man's shirt and going for the loose and casual feel. Styles may appear very masculine but the way they are worn is ultra-feminine — a figure-hugging line unbuttoned almost to the navel.

Gucci started it off last year with sultry, deep-plunging shirts with traditional collars and cuffs — and other designers and high street labels have followed suit. It is schoolmarm meets 1970s glamour.

The New Shirt is a versatile look that fits in to a more formal work situation while not looking out of place after clocking off. It goes well with the softest of suits or can be worn to the same effect with trendy hoodies trousers or an on-the-knee skirt.

Styles to look out for are the short-tailed fitted variety that can be worn snugly tucked in, or left out with the hem stopping at hip level.

Modern sludge colours such as olive, mustard and aubergine can be introduced to the workplace quite successfully in this style of shirt, and stripes in all combinations are good too (see the example shown below from Pauline Burrows).

A white shirt is a safe bet and can be jazzed up with interesting cufflinks. Here women can be more adventurous than men and go for outrageous choices. A good selection of unusual and beautiful cufflinks can be found at Paul Smith (as shown below), T.M. Lewin of Jermyn Street, W1, and branches of Liberty.

Best buys in shirts range from designer selections at Gucci, Cerruti and Salvatore Ferragamo to good high street examples from Jigsaw, Oasis, Warehouse and Marks & Spencer (shown right).

The ultimate, of course, is the made-to-measure bespoke shirt at prices from around £80 to £130. Look up shirtmakers in your local telephone directory. Fabric choice is yours (you can even take along your own) but make sure you pick a good cotton poplin, a strong silk or a smooth broadcloth and choose your buttons well. Poor quality fastenings can spoil a garment. For added effect, ask for double

French cuffs that fasten with a cufflink.

Make sure the neck is generous and go for a larger collar with a wider stand which can elongate the look of your neck. If you are wide-hipped, go for an overall fitted shape but leave a little more room at the waist to create an hour-glass illusion.

Forget any adornment such as ties and scarves, this can look too 1980s, a decade which is not yet far enough away to be fully revived. Also, avoid the country-girl pearls-under-the-collar trick or the temptation to stand the collar up. Just sharp, simple and feminine is best. As always, less is more.

Main photographs by Richard Burns.
Hair and make-up by Sally Kvistheim.
Styling by Amandip Uppal.
Cufflink photographs by Adrian Sherratt.



ABOVE: Pink and blue striped shirt, £42.50, Thomas Pink, 85 Jermyn Street, SW1 and branches (0171-498 2202). Blue flat-front trousers, £83, Armand Basl, 12 Floral Street, WC2 (0171-278 4843). Black sandals, £44.99, Ravel, branches nationwide (0171-631 0224)

LEFT: Blue shirt, £30, Marks & Spencer, 458 Oxford Street, W1 and selected branches nationwide (0171-935 4422)

Square silver cufflinks with black stone, £45, available from Paul Smith, 41-43 Floral Street, London WC2 (0171-379 7133) and from Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1

Pink cluster with silver mesh cufflinks, £45, available from Paul Smith, 41-43 Floral Street, London WC2 (0171-379 7133) and from Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1

Purple cufflinks, £18, available from Marks & Spencer, 458 Oxford Street, London W1 and at selected branches nationwide (0171-935 4422)



Green striped shirt, £140, Pauline Burrows, made to order (0181-694 9373); Square, 3-4 The Corridor, Bath; Matches, 38 High Street, Wimbledon; Corniche, 2 Jeffery Street, Edinburgh. Oatmeal tweed shirt, £48, Jigsaw, 126-127 New Bond Street, W1 and branches nationwide (0171-491 4484)

THREE OF A KIND

Wearing spectacles is back in style and the bolder and more obvious the frames the better.

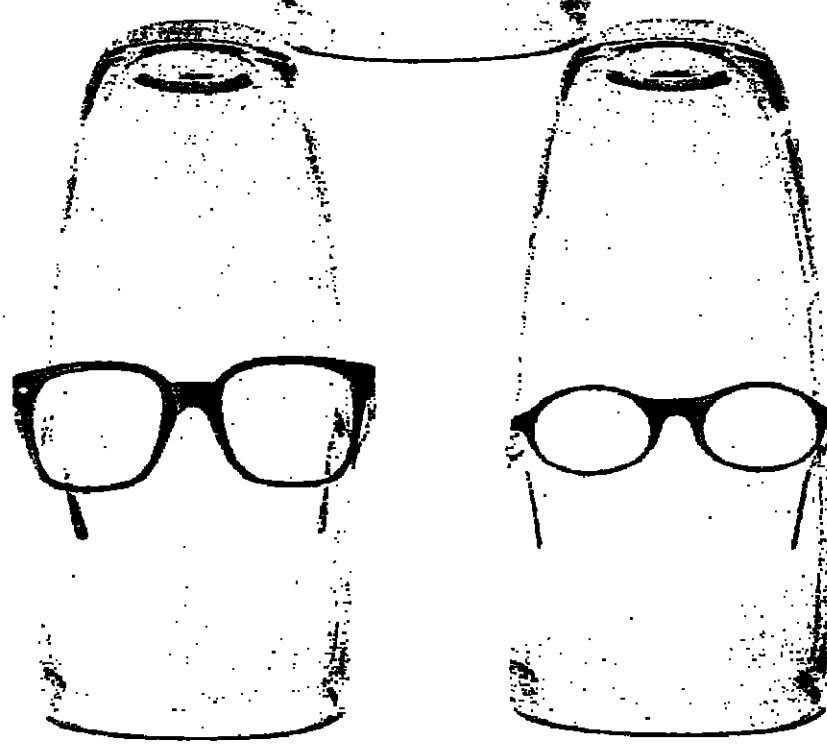
Dark, thick-rimmed glasses are the most chic, giving a distinctive continental look. Here are three of our favourite frames. H.B.



LEFT: Thick black-rimmed frames with white highlights, £118, Dolce & Gabbana by Marcolin, stockists nationwide (01635 529997)

BELOW LEFT: Full-face classic Michael Caine-style glasses, £77, by Persol, available at opticians nationwide (0171-629 4534)

BELOW RIGHT: Elliptical cat's eyes spectacles, £56, by Florence Vogue, stockists nationwide (0171-629 4534)



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THE TIMES OXLOYS FORUM
Anne Frank evening

Having the thyme of her life

Jekka McVicar
doesn't let the cold
interfere with her
herb farm, says
Jane Owen

Even in winter, Jekka McVicar has a smorgasbord of growing herbs: fennel, sweet marjoram, pineapple mint (with its creamy, white-edged leaves which go well in a fruit salad), English mace (for turkey and game), pungent, oily basil mint (for salad dressing), camphor thyme (for game), and the delicate, dry, evergreen leaves of salad burnet with their startling cucumber flavour. That's on top of the regulars which are a part of any herb fan's menu: 40 varieties of thyme, some bay, some rosemary and lavender.

Ms McVicar started to grow herbs 20 years ago at her home near Bristol while working as a flautist in a rock band, Marsupilami. After marrying Mac, a space engineer, and the arrival of two children she began to farm herbs commercially and is erecting a three-section polytunnel to add to the three existing polytunnels she has on a windy two-acre sight at Alveston, north of Bristol.

Her passion for herbs is infectious. As Ms McVicar walks through each polytunnel caressing the plants, their perfumes are released into the air — lemon, musk, rose, eucalyptus, honey and camphor. Fennel plants, which were sown last August, are 8in high and wave their delicate foliage at the snow outside. Lemon balm, too, thrives through the winter. It needs to be cut to ground level as soon as it gets tall and straggly, and then its low-lying dome of pale green leaves will survive the cold.

Scents given off are not all charming: some, like a mint recently sent in by a customer, can smell of urine. Ms McVicar suggests eating a mint leaf at the onset of migraine.

Most of the herbs grow happily in unheated tunnels, or even outside. The pineapple mint survives outside, albeit slightly blackened. But one tunnel, containing show plants, is kept at about 38°F. Pompons of bay, specimen plants of rosemary and lavender, a couple of olive trees, and low-clipped hedges of box and curry plants are being crimped and preened ready for future exhibitions by the Royal Horticultural Society or for this year's Chelsea Flower Show, where they will help to create a base for instant gardens. Last year, at the



Jekka McVicar in one of the cold polytunnels she uses to grow herbs throughout the year. Exhibition plants are grown in a heated tunnel

RHS Christmas show. Ms McVicar won a gold medal, despite manning her stand dressed as a garden gnome. Gnomes are banned by the RHS.

Alongside the show exhibits in her heated tunnel, a rare white-flowered sage struggles beside the shrub *Eriocaulon africanus*, whose clusters of small, white flowers appears only at this time of year. The silver foliage, which looks like a cross between lavender and rosemary, gives a hint of the desert with a whiff of eucalyptus.

Another plant with the near hint of eucalyptus, and of sweetness and pines, is Balm of Gilead (*Cedronella canariensis*). It looks like a small rose

sucker and has a good scent. Ms McVicar says that sniffing the leaves can ward off flu and colds; if that fails, soak the leaves in a bowl of steaming water as an inhalation or make them into a tea.

Whatever mood you are in herbs can make you feel good, Ms McVicar says. "I went into herbs because I've always been passionate about them, like cooking, and on the whole you can stick to English when talking about them."

Although she does not use chemicals she cannot claim the official organic accreditation because, when

plants are ready to be sent to garden centres or by mail order, she gives them a dose of slow-release fertiliser. In Germany this system is accepted.

Ms McVicar is irreplaceable in whatever she does, and so are her husband and children, which is why the family living in a makeshift hut for two years while the children were barely three and four years old. Now, the children's room in the hut is used as the label store and the parents' bedroom as a mail-order seed storing room. The family has now moved into a once-derelect cottage which they have restored.

SEEDS OFFER

● Readers can get five bags of unusual basil seeds — 'Anise', 'Lemon Leaf', 'Greek', 'Cinnamon' and 'Lemon' — by sending £4.50, which includes p.p. to Jekka's Herb Farm, Rose Cottage, Sheldons Lane, Alveston, Bristol BS12 2SY (01454 418878). The usual price is £1.10 each. A catalogue is free with the seeds; otherwise send four first-class stamps.

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON
repplies to readers' letters

Q I planted a stag's horn sumach for autumn colour but, because it suckered badly and did not colour well, I cut it down. My neighbour now has a line of its suckers making trees under his side of the fence, and more suckers keep creeping back to my side. My neighbour is happy to have his trees, but how do I deal with the suckers on my side? — Miss M. Doe, Herne Bay, Kent.

A *Rhus typhina* will sometimes, but not always, produce excellent fiery autumn colour. The female plant is said to be better than the male for colour. It makes a small tree or large shrub, and usually meets its end by getting too large for its shallow roots. It suckers a lot. The more you damage its roots by gardening under it, the more suckers are produced. Either cut down the suckers in your garden and treat the fresh stumps with RootOut, or remove the invading root as far as the fence. I doubt if RootOut applied to suckers here would damage your neighbour's trees. It would be interesting to know what case law says about damage to, and ownership of, a plant coming from your neighbour's garden, but which began life in yours.

Q My 4ft-tall outdoor oleander is ten years old but does not open many flowers. It gets morning sun until noon. Should I move it to a steeper border, or leave it and take cuttings? If so, how and when? — J. Mount, St Saviour, Jersey.

A You are right to look for a sunnier position. Oleanders need all the warmth they can get. If you wish to move it, do so in late

February or early March, with a big rootball of soil attached. Cuttings are made in June or July, under plastic, from 3in-tin half-ripe shoots, inserted in a shaded compost.

Q Electricity board workmen cut back beech, willow and cypress trees in my garden under power lines, and shredded the prunings down to a pile of mulch, which they said would be usable in six months. I have a new, 160-year leylandii hedge which I wish to mulch, but have been told by a neighbour that the mulch will be too acidic, because it has a coniferous content. How soon could I use the mulch, and is it suitable? — J.W. Follows, Saffron Walden, Essex.

A A purely coniferous mulch can be on the acid side, but yours is mixed. Even if it were on the acid side, it would not harm your leylandii. Newly shredded prunings are best left in a heap to heat up and decay before spreading. But, unless they are to be spread thickly, this is not vital. What is more important is to keep the mulch off the young trunks, and if the mulch is fine, to spread a layer thick enough to conserve soil moisture but not so thick as to resist rain penetration. Three inches is enough of a fine mulch, but coarser, less dense mulches, such as bark chips, can be spread more thickly.

● Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.

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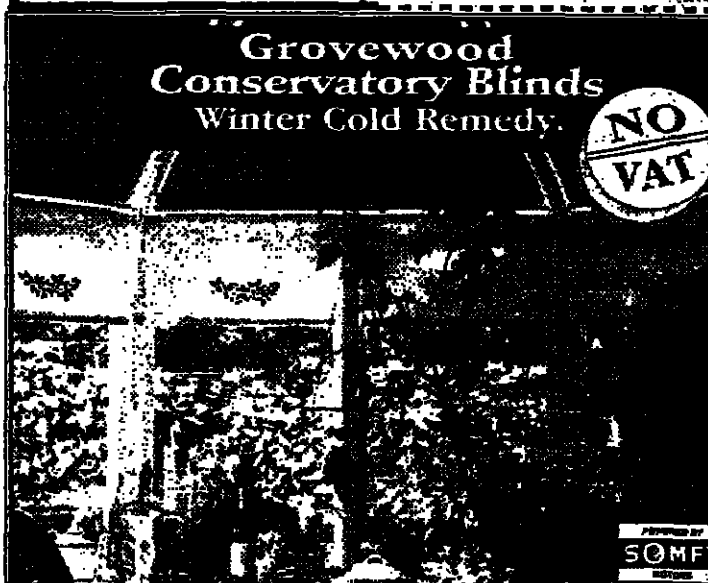
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Don't let your house catch a cold

Kerryn Brooker
offers a step-by-step
guide to protecting
your home against
the perils of winter

WINTER has been far from kind this year. A series of unseasonably sharp and very cold bursts have underlined to householders the problems that can arise when your house is not fully equipped.

WATER

Knowing what needs to be done to prepare your house for the cold is not complicated and is more a matter of vigilance than high-tech. One of the main dangers to a house is water. In this way houses are a bit like human beings: if they get wet and stay wet they catch a cold — often an expensive one. According to both the British Wood and Damp Counting Association and the Building Research Establishment (BRE), the majority of dry rot problems are caused by an "ingress of water".

LEAVES

When the snow and ice have melted, take a quick trip around your home. Is the garden full of leaves? If so, examine the guttering that runs around the roof. This may be a tall order but do what you can. A section of your roof may be within view from an upstairs room, so take a look from there. If it is within safe reach of an opened window, invest in a set of drain rods and a "jointed scraper" attachment (about £30) from any plumbers' supplier. This half-moon shaped device will allow you to push the leaves clear of the guttering.

GUTTERING AND DRAINS

Next check the drainage outlets from the house. Make sure that the leaves are not blocking the flow of water. If they are, you'll need to take a spade and remove them. When drainage constantly attracts leaves, you should fit a plastic or mesh cover. If there is a continual problem with leaves in the guttering, mesh covers can also be fitted here.

THE ROOF

For the elusive high section of the roof you will have to wait for a good downpour. Take your umbrella and wander round the building in the rain. If you can see water splashing down the side of the building, either the guttering is blocked or broken. To inspect a very high roof an extending ladder will be required, which is probably best left to a plumber.

While they are up there you might also ask them to take a look at the rest of the roof — the tiles, slates and flashings. If there are any slipped tiles or slates or holes in the flashing, you will need a roofing contractor to fix it. But if it looks in good order you should continue to monitor the roof yourself from inside by making regular inspections.

POINTING

When there is water running down an external wall you should also look for possible damage to pointing. Check the internal wall for stained or



peeling paper or damp patches — another sure sign of "water ingress". In this situation, you will need to call a bricklayer.

LEAKS

In checking for sources of internal water damage make another tour of the house. Are there any leaky taps or fittings in the house? Combined with a few cracked tiles on a shower floor, this is a great recipe for a damaged ceiling below or fungi growing on the other side of the wall. And what about the pipes? Are all exposed pipes and water tanks lagged? Check for leaks around water tanks, taps, toilets, exposed pipe joints, radiators and flexible hoses to washing machines and dishwashers. If in the recent cold snap your pipes have burst, you must make sure they are lagged after being repaired, or else it will happen again.

It is also a good idea to have your heating system checked yearly. If the boiler runs on gas, the plumber should be Corgi registered. For oil-fired installations, look for Oftec-registered installers. Always phone

to ask the price of a boiler service. From a quick ring around I found that the cost for an average London house should be no more than £100 for a full system check. Outside London, prices are lower.

PLUMBING

No one likes the expense of having to replace a major part of a heating system but if you find yourself in this unhappy position, it is probably better to do it now. As part of its energy conservation drive the Government, through the Energy Saving Trust, is offering cash back on energy saving products. These include condensing boilers and thermostatic radiator valves. Refunds range from £100 to £200, depending on the products and system. For conditions and information call the Energy Savings Trust on 0345 023005.

INSULATION

Another energy-saving cash-back incentive of £200 is also being offered by the trust for insulation. This only applies to houses with cavity walls,

which rules out the old solid-brick houses, but for keeping in the heat, insulation is a good option. For information ring 0800 0720158.

DRAUGHTS

For those of us with old solid-brick houses another walk around the house is in order. This time look or, more precisely, feel the draughts. Unwanted airflow through doors and windows is not too difficult to stop with a range of draught stoppers available at any DIY store.

VENTILATION

Finally, a word about airflow that is needed. While draughts are unwanted, ventilation is essential. According to the BRE many householders have a preference for blocking up vents, either on purpose to stop cold air or inadvertently when adding a patio or conservatory and forgetting about air and drainage levels, ventilation and even damp-proof coursing. Ventilation clears a building of condensation. Make sure bathrooms and kitchens are properly ventilated

and introduce clearing window panes of condensation into your daily household chores.

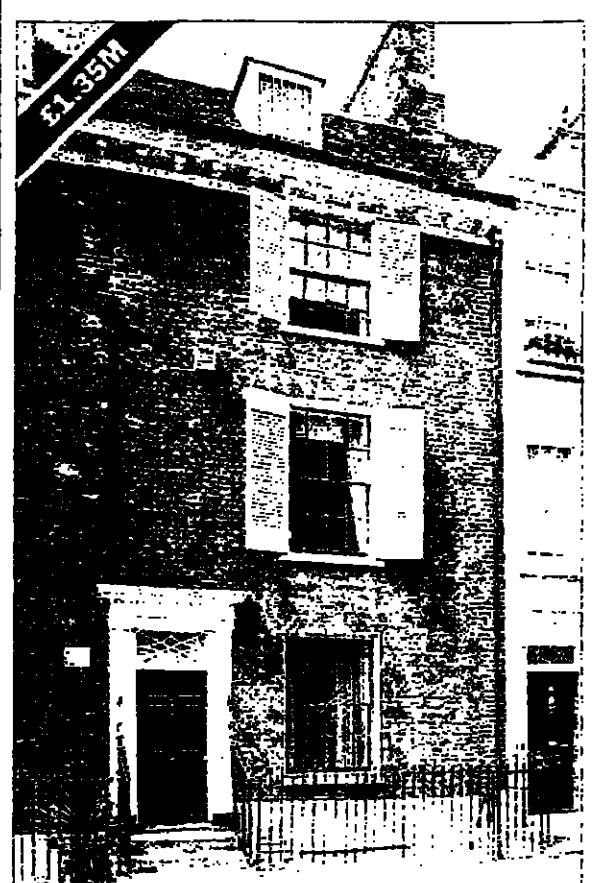
This may be a real nuisance but it will be a much more expensive nuisance to replace rotted window frames and sills, not to mention buying new curtains and linings that have become stained and mouldy.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

And if all this is forgotten and you have a mid-winter flood or the pipes freeze, do yourself a favour: know where the stop valves and fuses are (check them a couple of times a year) because you will need to turn off the mains water, switch off the hot water and heating boilers, turn off the electricity and call a plumber.

FINALLY...

Many of these checks are not as easy to accomplish for older people. As the BRE suggests, if your area has a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, perhaps a winter checking programme could be organised for the older members of the scheme.



LONDON
Upper Cheyne Row, Chelsea SW3. Grade II listed Queen Anne house requiring refurbishment, with roof terrace and a 50ft secluded rear garden. Four bedrooms, three bathrooms, dressing room, two reception rooms, dining room, kitchen and reception room. About £1.35m (John D Wood 0171-352 1484).



WILTSHIRE
Salisbury House, near Swindon. Grade II listed Georgian House in 7.1 acres of formal gardens, park and woodland. Four bedrooms, four bathrooms, four reception rooms, study, kitchen, breakfast room. Victorian wing with four bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room. Stable block, outbuildings. About £1.1m (Savills 0171-730 0622).



FRANCE
La Petite Touraigue, Ramatuelle, St Tropez Peninsula. Restored Provencal farmhouse in 7.5 acres, in a country setting, with views over woodland and vineyards to the sea. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, drawing room/dining room, kitchen. Guest cottage and swimming pool. About £1.1m (Knight Frank 0171-629 8171).

CHERYL TAYLOR

If things are 'not quite right' with your house, it may be time to bring in a diviner

The art of dowsing away evil waters

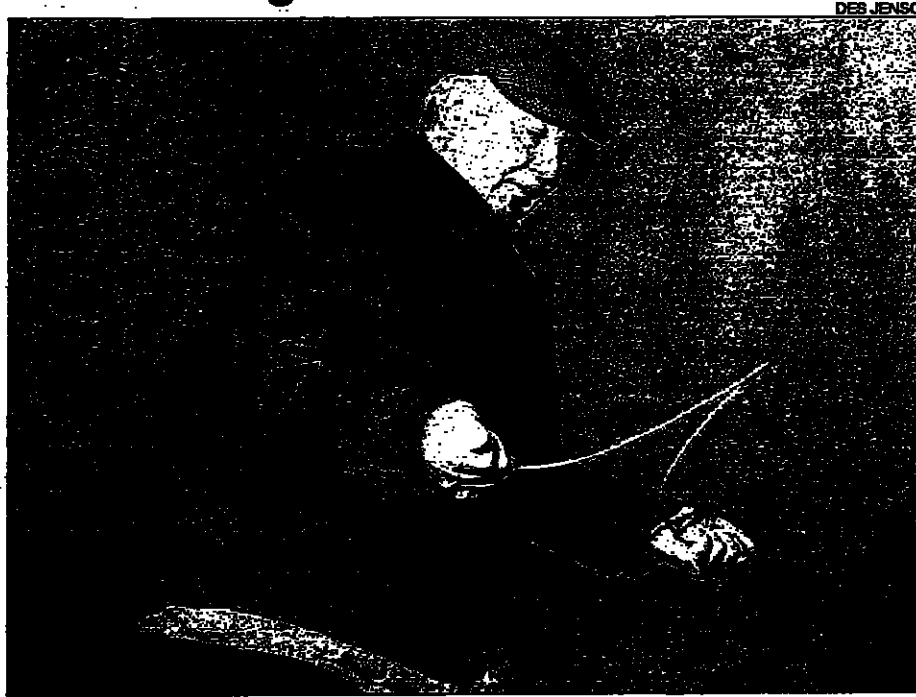
The narrow garden contained a lawn, a path, some shrubs — and a problem with water. So Bill Cooper, a dowser, was called in. After hammering an 8in copper rod into the earth, he announced: "We've found two lines [streams]."

Mr Cooper, who is president of the British Society of Dowsers, can detect water beneath the ground but he is more frequently asked to help with problems which builders, surveyors and plumbers cannot reach: invisible problems. Call it had vibrations, call it psychic disturbance, call it something "not quite right" about a house.

"I did see black lines swirling in the air," says the woman in whose garden Mr Cooper is hammering his copper stake. Mrs Worried of Weybridge, as I had better call her, has arranged for the dowser's house call when her husband is out, since "he sees this as quackery".

And who can blame him? A sceptic would suggest that Mrs W should have her vision tested and that Mr Cooper, a retired general, ought to contact his ex-soldiers' organisation with a view to finding himself some form of care in the community. But then a sceptic has not suffered oddities encountered in the W household. A battery-powered toy that works in one part of room, but not in another. Mains equipment that goes berserk.

The invisible and incredible are hard to check. Dowsters say that there appear to be force streams running under the landscape. Possibly caused by stresses in the rock below, these "earth energies" are tolerable. But if they are disturbed, for example by excavations, they can cause trouble "downstream", like



Bill Cooper divines for disturbances in "earth energy" streams under the landscape

pollution poured into a river. Some people pick them up, others don't. Mr Cooper finds that a copper pipe banged into the ground "upstream" acts as a filter to keep out the bad vibrations.

He has now diagnosed two such perturbed streams flowing under the house. I certainly detect something when I walk across the lawn with a dowsing kit that consists of two Rangle-rods, like thick bicycle wheel spokes with a right-angle bend. I hold one in

each hand. Suddenly the ends of the "barrels", which I have pointed straight ahead, swing towards each other and cross. As I continue walking, they immediately straighten out, going cross-eyed again after a further eight feet.

Those two points, Mr Cooper says, mark the edges of the wider of the two streams. "A likely story," I would have said, except that my own experience suggests that the dowser is not leading Mrs W up her own garden path.

Some years ago my own house seemed to be suffering from a kind of psychic dry rot.

One night I had suddenly become aware of a strange electrical tension in the hall and kitchen. Much worse was an awful feeling of panic — an almost physical sensation, it definitely had an external cause. It existed as a bad smell but no one else in the family seemed to have a nose for it.

After some months, I approached the British Society of Dowsers. Mr Cooper

turned up with his assistant, Jill Mizen, and decided that a wide torrent of earth energy was racing under my house. Disturbed by the old excavations for clay at the top of the hill, it was in turn disturbing my peace of mind. His solution was the same: a few inches of copper hammered in at the top of the garden. I made a donation to a charity he runs and that was it. Exorcised, purified, neutralised, earthed, de-energised, call it what you will.

One term you can't use is "placebo effect". If it had been entirely down to the power of suggestion, it would have gone away instantly. Instead, a few nights later I experienced the worst ever commotion among my follicles. For the first time, the bad vibrations came upstairs and began vibrating while I was cleaning my teeth. I sprinted out of the bathroom, furious that this was one more room to be avoided at night.

Fortunately, it turned out to be the last splash of the dark stream. The final bubble of the kettle before it cut out. Since then I have been aware of some vaguely electrical force downstairs but these are neutral vibrations.

I tell Mrs W this reassuring story, omitting only the bit in the bathroom. A fortnight later, Mr Cooper tells me that the trouble in her house cleared up after a final outburst: "She had a bad experience, like you. She saw things, but now all's well."

Mr W, who knows nothing of this saga, has just walked into the house. "Something feels different," he says.

JONATHAN SALE

British Society of Dowsers, Sycamore Barn, Haslingfield, Ashford, Kent TN25 5HW.

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Suggested recipe from Le Creuset Home Economist, Sue Cutts.

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Serves 4
4 boneless chicken breasts, skinned.
Marinade: 2 tablespoons corn oil; finely grated rind of one lime; 2 tablespoons of lime juice; 2 tablespoons fresh chopped coriander; freshly ground black pepper.

- Put the pieces of chicken into a non metallic dish.
- Mix together all the marinade ingredients, pour over the chicken and leave to stand for 1-2 hours. Just before grilling lift the chicken out of the marinade and pat dry on absorbent kitchen paper.
- Heat the grillit and oil lightly. Cook the chicken breasts for 4-5 minutes each side. A little of the marinade can be brushed over the chicken as it cooks. Garnish with wedges of lime and sprigs of fresh coriander.

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Kerry Smith

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It was a Tuesday night in the middle of the month of November. Kerry Smith was sitting at his desk, looking at the results of the competition. He had just won a camcorder. It was a great win, but it was also a surprise. He had never won a competition before.

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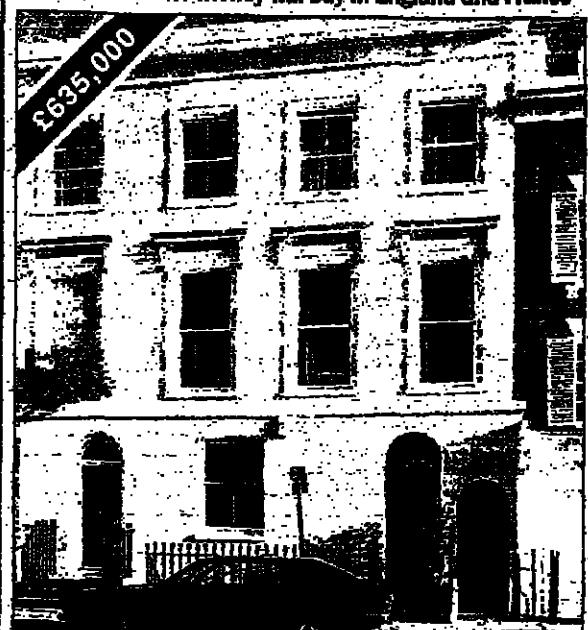
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HOMESWAP


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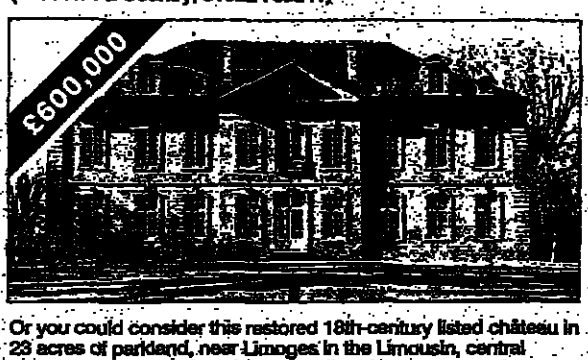
A 44-year lease on this stucco-fronted four-bedroom town house in Chester Row, Gower, London costs £635,000. (Knight Frank, 0171-824 8171 and Chesterfield, 0171-581 5234)

£625,500



For a little less you could buy this renovated 18th-century house in four acres of gardens overlooking an unspoilt valley, near Faversham in Kent. Sooke House has seven bedrooms, four reception rooms, summerhouse and an all-weather tennis court. (GA Town & Country, 01822 785241)

£600,000



Or you could consider this restored 18th-century listed chateau in 28 acres of parkland, near Lixouges in the Languedoc, central France, the former winter home of a Russian prince, costing £600,000. It has at least 15 rooms, including a 'grand salon', chapel, cottage and outbuildings. (Sfrax, 0171-384 1200)

CHERYL TAYLOR

A whiter shade of pale

DES JENSON



Lola Gaji was fascinated by bleached driftwood and thought a limed floor would recreate that look

Limed wood is the latest smart finish for floors.

Joyce Blake offers a practical guide

If you want to liven up a wooden floor but want a more subtle effect than painted floorboards, liming is the new approach. It is hardwearing, practical and, when sealed, requires much less maintenance than an oiled or waxed floor.

Liming gives an overall white hue to the floor and adds definition to the grain. Liming paste, a thick, white, chalky substance which was originally scrubbed into wood as a disinfectant, has become increasingly popular as a decorative finish.

Lola Gaji is a mixed-media artist who has been restoring her Victorian house in London for five years. She decided to use a lime effect on the floors in her basement. "I had to re-lay the floor because of a serious case of wood-rot," she says.

"When I walk along a beach I am fascinated by driftwood that has been bleached by the sun and sea, and I thought a lime floor would recreate that look. It was easy to do."

The first stage is to establish the type of wood your floor is made from. Hardwoods such as oak, mahogany and teak are the most suitable for liming, because they are porous and grainy. Most floorboards are made from pine which is not porous enough for lime paste. In this case, you can create a faux effect using a white water stain. This will not have the same feel as liming on hardwood, but can look great in a modern home.

TOOLS FOR THE JOB

You will need: a nail punch, hammer, sanding machine (hired), clean rags, fine sandpaper.

For hardwood floors: a wire brush, hessian or coarse rags, liming paste, white Shellac polish, acid-cat or water-based lacquer.

For softwood floors: prepared white water stain (Mylands or Liberon are good), water-based lacquer.

Before liming: The floorboards will need to be prepared and cleaned thoroughly, because any wax or grease left on the floor will make the paint separate and dirty marks will show through the lime. Nails should be hammered in with a nail punch so that they are just below the surface. You will need the sanding machine to remove all grease and old varnish.

HARDWOOD FLOORS

1 Use a clean wire brush to rake out the grain of the wood. The floorboards should be brushed in the direction of the grain. You may find this easier if you slightly dampen the floor with water. The aim is to remove lighter graining and leave harder grain intact. When you have finished, vacuum-clean thoroughly.

2 Use clean hessian or coarse rags to apply the lime paste. Rub the paste on in the direction of the grain and then cross-wise to ensure that the grains are completely filled with paste. Dry to a powdery finish.

When the lime paste has dried rub the floor with fine sandpaper. The paste should remain in the grooves of the grain and you should be left with a smooth surface.

4 Then use a damp rag to clear up all the remaining loose dust on the floor.

5 The floor can now be sealed. Apply a coat of white Shellac polish before varnishing as this will help prevent the lime powder being pulled away when you are brushing on the lacquer finish. Brush on two coats of acid-cat or water-based lacquer in a matt, silk or gloss finish. Avoid oil-based lacquers as these can yellow the liming effect.

SOFTWOOD FLOORS

The overall effect you are trying to achieve is of a white-painted floor that has been worn in and bleached with age. Do not worry if your floorboards vary in colour - irregularities add to the charm.

1 Paint the floorboards in the direction of the grain using a white prepared water stain. Work on small sections at a time and wipe off the excess stain with clean rags. It is important to do this before it dries or you will end up with a patchy effect. Leave the stain to dry for approximately four hours or according to manufacturers instructions.

2 If you have very yellow pine flooring you may need to add a second coat of stain which can be applied after the first coat has dried.

3 Once the stain has dried give the floor a very light hand sanding until you have a smooth finish.

4 Seal with two coats of water-based lacquer in a finish of your choice. A matt or satin finish works well.

● Firms which stock products for liming floors and offer a mail-order service include Fossil and James, 57 Farringdon Road EC4A 3DF (0171-405 0152/2487), and Paint Magic (0171-354 9666).

PROPERTY NEWS

■ A TWO-BEDROOM apartment built on the site of a medieval nunnery in Worcestershire is for sale with a guide price of £130,000. The Doverdale suite is the central section of Westwood House, near Droitwich Spa. The Grade I listed house, now divided into 13 apartments, was built as a hunting lodge in 1600 by Sir John Packington, named "lusty John" at the court of Queen Elizabeth because of his athletic achievements. Contact Knight Frank, 01905 723438.

■ PRICES of country houses and cottages will rise by up to 40 per cent by the year 2000, according to Strutt & Parker. James Laing, the head of the firm's rural division, predicts little activity until June this year, particularly after the general election is announced, but sees rises of 5 per cent in the last half of the year, and of 10 per cent in 1998 and 1999.

■ ALTHOUGH the housing market usually does pick up until well into the new year, Douglas & Gordon's office in Battersea, south-west London, reports that more than 100 new applicants registered there on January 3 alone.

■ THIS weekend sees the launch of the four remaining phase one properties at Try Homes's development at Princes Gate, Friern Barnet, London N11, situated in the grounds of the former Friern Barnet hospital. Fifteen of the 69 Victorian-style two, three and four-bedroom houses have already been sold off plan. Prices from £149,950. Contact Try Homes, 0181-368 0608.

■ IF YOU think renting is expensive, how about a seven-bedroom house in Holland Villas Road, Holland Park, west London available at £6,800 a week? The luxurious detached family house has an outdoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, seven bathrooms, and off-street parking. Contact Hamptons International, 0171-937 9371.

AMANDA LOOSE

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Answers to the December 28 quiz are:

- 1 Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
- 2 Teresa Gorman
- 3 The Boltons
- 4 Fred West
- 5 The Barclay twins
- 6 Buckingham Palace
- 7 Bob Geldof and Paula Yates
- 8 Liam Gallagher

The winner of the all-inclusive two-night stay at Champneys health resort is Mary Williams, of Mickleham, Surrey.

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The collapse of communism has led to an invasion of so-called attack dogs, which have become the most popular pets in Russia

On a bitterly cold winter's day, Moscow's open-air pet market greets its throng of visitors with the barking and howls of a thousand angry dogs.

Where children used to pet fluffy kittens or choose from a litter of cuddly black labradors, the city's oldest market has been turned into some futuristic nightmare. Small-time Russian mobsters, identifiable from their uniform crew-cut hair and shell suits, stroll down the cramped stalls slapping each other on the back and sizing up the various dangerous dogs for sale, while choosing accessories like stud collars and heavy chains to go with their new purchases.

"These are the perfect pets for today's Russia," says Afina, a middle-aged dog breeder, who lifts a blanket from a box to reveal two sleeping bull mastiff puppies. In their slumber the small but muscular creatures look deceptively harmless, an impression quickly dispelled by a glance at their mother, who has reared up on her hind legs and is barking savagely, restrained by four leads.

"Nowadays you need security. These dogs will guard your family and protect your property," Afina says, justifying the £800 asking price, before adding as an unconvincing afterthought that "they are also great with children".

Infatuation with dogs is nothing new in Russia. In pre-Revolution days hunting dogs and family pets were an obsession of the aristocracy. The passion survived under communism as well. Even though Soviet citizens lived in tiny, cramped flats and food was difficult to come by, Moscow's parks and courtyards were always filled with pedigree Afghan hounds and Great Danes, which were often fed better than their owners.

During the Soviet period dog breeding was strictly controlled and guard dogs were limited to only seven official breeds, including the giant central Asian and caucasian shepherds and the indigenous black terrier, said to be a favourite of Lavrenti Beria, one of Stalin's henchmen. But the collapse of communism has led to an invasion

of attack dogs, which are now the most popular pets in the country.

Fidel Castro's brother is rumoured to have imported the first six pitbulls into Russia in 1990. Since then, for reasons of personal security and status, rottweilers, pitbulls, bull mastiffs and Staffordshires have become the latest accessory for New Russians. The newly moneyed class think nothing of paying up to £1,500 for a pure-bred puppy, to add to their Mercedes and dacha in the country.

Predictably, the new fad has caused problems in Moscow, where attacks by dogs have increased by

'Rottweilers, pitbulls and bull mastiffs go with the Mercedes and the country dacha'

more than 50 per cent this year. Sometimes it is the owners, ignorant of how to discipline their new pets, who are the victims, but mostly it is the ordinary citizens, for whom the city's parks have become an obstacle course of vicious canines.

While jogging through a park in the city recently, I was set upon by a doberman, which barked, snapped at my heels and lunged at me until his owner called him off, without apology. Others have been less lucky. One businessman, who had neglected to feed his pitbull, was mauled to death in November.

Konstantin Kuznetsov, a dog trainer, is not surprised by the casualty rate. He used to teach dogs to "sit" and "stay", but now owners want to teach their dogs new tricks. "Mostly owners want me to train their dogs to bite — or kill," he says.

The authorities have threatened to curb the uncontrolled sale of attack dogs, although the overstretched police force is too busy with crime to take on the task. One proposal put forward by the Moscow city council envisages restricting dangerous dogs to members of licensed kennel

clubs and forcing all owners to undergo a dog training course.

However, so far the attempts have led nowhere and a huge unregulated cottage industry of breeders has sprung up across the country. The failure of the law to deal with the problem was highlighted last year in the Volga town of Samara when a man was fined 20,000 roubles (£2) by a court after his rottweiler killed a drunken assailant by biting him through the neck.

Certainly, few politicians would want to risk incurring the anger of dog lovers by advocating a crackdown. The popular appeal of man's best friend was exploited by several candidates during last summer's presidential election race. General Aleksandr Lebed, the former security chief, made it known that his free time is spent taking Cheswick, his English sheepdog, for walks. Similarly Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, does on Daisy, his poodle, and Grigori Yavlinsky, the main liberal leader, is passionate about his dachshund.

The self-made millionaire Vladimir Brynsalov, a classic New Russian, revealed that he was trendier than his opponents. Pride of place among his pets are a rottweiler and two caucasian shepherds, the fiercest Russian breeds.

Any talk of restrictions is greeted as fanciful by Marguerita, a young Russian businesswoman who predicts that the phenomenon of attack dogs is just beginning in Russia. She is chairman of Moscow's Pitbull Association and is the proud owner of Red Alert, a fearsome-looking pitbull, who is not only the family pet but also an important source of income. The dog is a champion fighter, unbeaten in three contests, when the stakes often run as high as £6,500.

"I organise fights a few times a year, when people fly in from around the country to participate," says the breeder, who insists that fighting dogs are trained never to attack human beings. "If it is done properly, it is a good sport. I think it will catch on in Russia."

RICHARD BEESTON



Dogs on sale at a Moscow street market. Russians are happy to pay up to £1,500 for fashionable breeds

A VET WRITES

Q My King Charles spaniel, Holly, has an eye problem. I bathe her eyes every day but there is always a catarrh-like mucus in them and now there is a bluish film over the eyeball.

A Holly has conjunctivitis and the infection has extended on to the cornea, the surface of the eyeball. This could lead to ulcers, which are acutely painful, or to scarring, which can cause blindness. Take Holly to your vet as soon as you can. Some damage will have been done but, with proper treatment, there is a good chance that she will end up with pain-free eyes and efficient, if not perfect, sight.

Q We have a pair of guinea pigs. The male is about three months old and the female, ten weeks. When will they be old enough to breed? What is the gestation period and should we separate them before the young are born?

A They are old enough now and baby guinea pigs may already be on the way. Gestation varies depending on the litter size (about 68 days for triplets or quads (the average number) but, if there is only one or two, they may not be born for a day or so longer. Baby guinea pigs are born fully furred, eyes open, active and feeding on solid food within a couple of days. They feed from their mother for three to four weeks. If their father is excitable it would be better to separate him from them — he will not harm them but may trample on them.

Q Ben, our five-year-old neutered cat, started straining and was in agony. We thought he was constipated but the vet found he given an anaesthetic and the blockage was cleared. My vet says crystals from the urine cause such blockages and it could happen again. A friend says that dry cat-food is the cause. Ben has always had timed food. Is there anything I can do to prevent a recurrence?

A Feline urolithiasis syndrome (FUS), the name of this condition, affected cats long before dry cat-food was available. Two things could help. Cats take most of their fluid as part of their food (raw meat and canned foods contain up to 75 per cent water). The more Ben drinks, the less the risk of further crystal formation. Add gravy or meat juice to his drinking water and, if you have boiled fish, save that water for him.

It is not wise to give dry food (it only contains 10 per cent water) to cats that have had bladder trouble, because this may lead them to produce concentrated urine. This is not the same thing as saying dry food causes FUS.

Crystals do not form so readily in acid urine. You could ask your vet if he or she advises tablets to make sure Ben's urine always turns litmus paper red.

JAMES ALLCOCK

Readers should write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1, Pennington Street, London E1 4BN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

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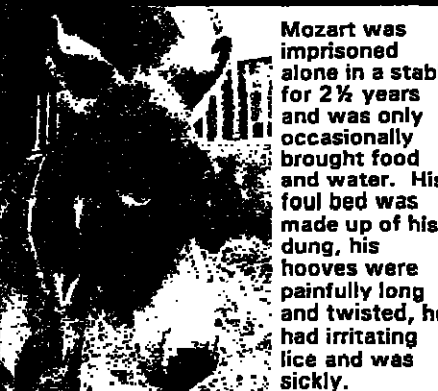
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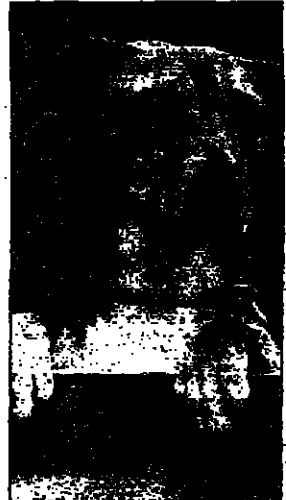
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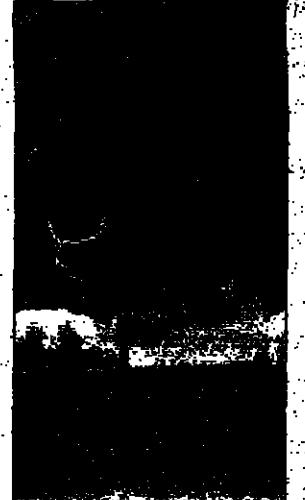
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Heidi (left) is very loyal whereas Chez is energetic



Feeling ill? The eyes have it

ALTERNATIVELY SPEAKING

Adam Jackson has a perfect peachy complexion. Yet for years he suffered from psoriasis which left him with red scaly blotches that itched as if insects were crawling under his skin.

"I remember endless coal-tar baths and repeated applications of ointments and pastes, and being wrapped up daily in cling film like a half-eaten piece of cucumber," he says. "My skin did get better, but it never fully cleared."

His determination to heal himself led him to alternative medicine and an acupuncturist who used iridology. The psoriasis vanished. Mr Jackson was so impressed that he spent a year training with the then British School of Iridology and has been an iridologist for the past decade.

I met him at his clinic in Golders Green, northwest London. He did not take down the usual medical and lifestyle details, as other therapists have. All he wanted to know was whether I wore contact lenses (they must be removed) or suffered epilepsy (treatment is ill-advised as it involves bright lights which could trigger a fit). He spent three minutes using a special video camera called an "iroscope" to photograph the irises and to project the image onto a large screen for analysis.

Up flashed my eyes, enlarged so they all but filled the television screen. I was surprised by the number of colours and textures: I'd always thought of myself as brown-eyed, full-stop. The iris is believed to be a window to

your health because it responds to changes in the nervous system. The left iris is believed to register changes in the left side of the body, while the right shows those in the right. Colour is thought to show your constitutional leanings: so the brown-eyed for example, tend to be poor metabolisers of fats: the blue-eyed tend to develop acid conditions such as arthritis; while those with mixed irises tend to suffer poor digestions.

The fibres of the iris are claimed to reveal the condition of the organs and tissues throughout the body. There are only three basic iris colours: blue, brown and green. Any other colour such as orange or yellow is caused by toxins. My system was overloaded with acid, Mr Jackson

said, as shown by the spots of yellow and orange discoloration. That means I would be susceptible to rheumatic, arthritic, ulcerative and skin complaints (I thought of my late grandmother's crippling arthritis).

The white and yellow clouds in your eyes show a sluggish lymph system which is struggling to get rid of toxins," he said.

So that's what may be behind my bad skin. Rings round my eyes rims indicated stress (no surprise there) while he also spotted a slightly spastic colon. Solution: relaxation techniques.

But it was his appendix spot that convinced me. A dark mark in my eye was exactly the spot in the lower abdomen where my appendix had once been. I was stunned when he

said I must have had it out when I was 11.

Eye-gazing supposedly began with Hippocrates. By the 17th century, eye analysis was an established diagnostic method across Europe. But iridology proper began in the 19th century when the Hungarian doctor Ignatz von Peczely noticed a black mark in an owl's eye which had broken its leg. He found the same mark in a patient with the same complaint.

Mr Jackson convinces by his modest claims for his trade. "Iridology is simply an extension of conventional forms of diagnosis through the eye."

Post-diagnosis, Mr Jackson calls on his herbal, massage and nutritional skills to advise treatment. He outlined a "personal preventative health-care programme" for an extra £15, which suggests diet, breathing exercises to reduce stress and speed up lymph flow and nutritional advice. I should avoid tomatoes, switch to apple cider rather than white wine vinegar, and reduce the amount of meat I eat. I pondered quite how many times a week I ate a vinegary tomato salad. Two weeks and far less meat later, whisper it quietly, but I feel fantastic.

• Iridology, by Adam Jackson is published by Vermilion, £9.99.

• Adam Jackson, c/o of International Association of Clinical Iridologists, 533 Finchley Road, London NW11 0AB (0181 438 7781). The association can put you in touch with an iridologist in your area.

• The Guild of Naturopathic Iridologists, 15 Grosvenor Lodge, 94 Grosvenor Road, London SW1V 3LP.



Adam Jackson: iridologist

Tired hand that rocks the cradle

PERSONAL LIFE



You can tell J.M. Barrie was not a father. There he was, writing this play for and about children, and he had three of them, Wendy, Michael and John, put to bed, not by their mother or pater (this being an upper-middle-class household), nor an apple-cheeked nanny, but by a dog. Ridiculous. Once you believe that, you'll believe a boy can fly.

Every parent, on the other hand, knows that getting a small child to sleep is an enterprise requiring patience and fortitude. Put them down too early and they yell the house down. Leave it too late and they yell the house down because they're over-tired. Like Goldilocks and the porridge scenario, it has to be done just right.

I am, at present, training our two-year-old, Grace, to go to sleep. I have been doing so for some time

— about two years, in fact. It's not that she's anti-sleep per se, just that she thinks it should be turned into an event, like Christmas or birthdays. Frequently, when I stumble through the door after a hard day's wage-slaving, she, all pyjama-ed up, will greet me with a kiss and the welcome words: "Hiyo, Daddy. Me tard. Wumgo bed." Her mother will not demur. "She didn't have a nap so she's been hell all afternoon," my wife will say, her voice glowing with love.

So good old Daddy takes over. Does she have her milk? Does she have her comfort blankets? Yes — two. One used to be a spare, but now she seems to have decided that it's such a rough old world two are the basic minimum. Does she have her plastic Donald Duck

figure she got out of a cereal box and prefers to her other, more expensive, toys? OK, let's go.

While Grace sleeps in her own bed, she goes to sleep on ours, unless she's so exhausted that she could fall asleep anywhere (including, on one notorious occasion, the bath). This is fine: ours is a double bed, and hers is pathetically small and narrow. Hardly enough room for her, let alone me.

Grace, you see, likes to be cuddled to sleep on our bed. She also likes to be patted and have her hair stroked. But there again, who doesn't? So I cuddle and pat and stroke, and she drinks her milk, occasionally taking the bottle out of her mouth to check how much

she's got left. And we watch television. Fatal, that. We didn't use to, and it may or may not be coincidental that, since we started doing so, she has taken longer to nod off. But on the other hand, have you any idea how boring it is, just patting and stroking and making silly shhhh sounds, supposedly guaranteed to have even the most resilient toddler spark out in seconds?

Anyway, ever since she worked out which button turned the TV on, there's been no stopping her. Any set she sees has to be switched on, or she throws a wobbly. At any rate, that's the excuse I have for leaving it on. By this means I have become a fan of *EastEnders*, having never previously watched it in my life.

Being a child of the Sixties, I am

a great believer in vibes. I lie there, with my little girl cradled in my left arm, and I send out relaxation waves. I try to convince her that I, too, am falling asleep. My breathing slows and deepens and I might add a little snore for dramatic effect. Frequently, my performance is so good that the next thing I know my wife is shaking me awake. I tell her I wasn't asleep, just resting my eyes, but I don't think she believes me.

Grace's breathing slows and deepens as well. The hand clutching my finger relaxes. She hands me her bottle and makes little snuffling noises of contentment. All the signs are right. Five more minutes of this and I can go downstairs and back in the congratulations of my wife, a fine woman but one sadly bereft of the subtleties that make for an inter-

national-class child go-to-sleeper. The next stage sounds simple enough. Remove sleeping child from crook of arm. Waggle arm until pins and needles disappear. Get off bed. Lift child up. Carry to own room. Lay down on own bed. Cover with comfort blankets and duvet. But at any time in the procedure the child can reveal the awful truth — she's been shamming. "Awake," she will say, and prove it by jumping up and down and giggling.

That's when relaxation techniques and sleep vibes go right out the window. "Go to sleep," I shout, quietly. She knows enough has been enough. She throws herself on to the pillow and shuts her eyes so tight she almost gives herself a headache. She makes the snoring noises she picked up off her dad, in time, she even believes it herself, and goes to sleep for real. Finished. Done and dusted. And it only took 90 minutes.

CHRIS CAMPING

You can't smack me, I don't live here

Adults should not be made to feel guilty for chastising other people's badly-behaved children

My father grew up in the days that everyone hears back to. Doors were never locked and women could walk out at night. Society seemed to work better. Yet if a neighbour caught a child stealing from his orchard he was just as likely to cuff the miscreant as drag him back to the family home for chastisement.

Policemen did it too — and so did teachers, caretakers and park-keepers. Corporal punishment from strangers was one of the daily hazards for a young lad off on his adventures.

Yet today it is unthinkable. Of course some families still believe in smacks within the family — and we are one of them. Our six-year-old son John is a complete handful at times and he usually gets a red card warning before being smacked on the hand but even we found it difficult to accept someone else administering the blow.

tective still. A friend of mine, a surgeon whom I've often heard threatening his own children with dire punishments, told me that he considers other people chastising or rebuking his offspring "way out of line".

In recent years, as Britain has lost its sense of community, so discipline seems to have become the exclusive province of parents. If John or Miranda are ever involved in trouble at the houses of other children I've noticed that we get full and anxious feedback from the hosts. "I told him that if he hit Sam again he'd have to go and play in another room and when he did hit Sam I'm afraid I did take him next door until he promised he wouldn't do it any more."

The tone adopted by these parents is often apologetic

At my daughter's school there is a mother who rarely mixes with the other parents and never attends social events. For a long time I wondered if this woman thought herself above the common herd but one day Miranda told me the dreadful secret of Megan's mother.

This other girl pushed Megan over in the playground and Megan's mum smacked her. "Now it seems that no one wants their daughter going to play at Megan's house and encountering the risk of physical violence."

Some parents are more pro-

Sometimes the tone adopted by these poor parents verges on the apologetic. They're very sorry for having been driven to reproach our offspring, and are getting in their own version of events straight away, just in case we subsequently hear an exaggerated account of physical or emotional abuse from our children ("Joss shouted at us all the time we were there"). The problem today is that all too often society will assume that Joss is the transgressor simply because she was raising her voice at somebody else's children.

For many people I know, a rebuke to their children feels like an attack on the family unit, something to be repelled at all costs. I know a woman who told a boy off for persistently letting his dog stray into her garden and defecate. Unfortunately the boy's father



Adrian and Katharine Mourby at home in Cardiff with their children John and Miranda. "All children are naughty sometimes. It's no big deal if someone else points this out"

was in earshot and told her to "lay off my boy". When parents believe their job is to defend their children — right or wrong — rather than actually make them good members of society I do feel the time has come for someone to say: "All children are naughty sometimes. It's no big deal if someone else points this out."

The problem is these days we are all of us scared of disciplining other people's

children. My mother is one of the few people I know who will point out to a teenage boy that he has just dropped his fish and chip paper in the street. Most of us want to see an end to litter but we don't feel we should step in and rebuke the child who causes it. That is the responsibility of his parents and if they fail in that responsibility that is something the rest of us just have to bear. A sensible caring society is surely

ly one where we are all in loco parents for young children, if their parents aren't on hand.

A few years ago we were staying in a National Trust holiday cottage where there were lots of pheasants wandering the grounds. Little John had taken great delight in chasing these birds hither and thither, because pheasants are slow on the ground and reluctant to take to the air. We did tell him to stop, in that weary,

half-hearted tone of parents who are on holiday and who would clearly like a rest from responsibility, but of course he took no notice.

Then one day a stranger in a Land Rover pulled up, opened the door and politely but firmly told John to stop molesting the birds. I wasn't there to witness this event but I gather that John completely collapsed at this public censure and rushed back to our cottage

where he buried his face in the sofa. We were all sorry for him but the man was perfectly justified. Had I been there at the time I would have wanted him to address his rebuke via me, as the parent. But given that I wasn't, it was right that something was said. Right for the birds who were panicking, right for drivers in the car park who didn't want frenzied pheasants flying out in front of them and right for John who suddenly realised that other people do care about how he behaves in public. Even if most of the time they don't say anything, I'm clear in my own mind that I would never license someone to hit or even cuff, my children. We have a primitive, healthy, aversion to our offspring being struck by

strangers but even strangers must be entitled to speak out when our children misbehave. Some things were better in my father's day and one of them was the way in which everyone in the community had a stake in each other's orderly behaviour. Small rebukes to children were a daily occurrence. All too often these days we keep our heads down and only speak out if the behaviour of some child is more than we can bear. The result is that we erupt in anger — like my friend with the dog — and the aggrieved parent resents our intervention. What we need is more people in Land Rovers pulling up to put the pheasant's point of view.

ADRIAN MOURBY

Ruth Gledhill finds evidence of strong religious belief and dedication in a presbytery dating from Tudor times

Forget astrology, find your star and follow it



ON THE church noticeboard, a faithful parishioner had posted a cartoon of the confessional. The drawing depicted a hirsute priest and penitent, who was saying: "Father, I have these awful thoughts. I want to grow a beard."

Father Charles Jeffries, rosy-cheeked and ebullient, was clearly the subject. He could also have stepped out of the Tudor period, the era when his house was built, making it the oldest continually occupied presbytery in England. Aside from his carelessly discarded jokes, his twinkly eyes and jovial disposition, what marked him out was the vigour and magnificence of his immaculately groomed white and grey beard.

In the early Middle Ages, priests in some areas were forbidden by local canon law to grow beards. Later the fashion reversed, and by the Counter Reformation the trend was for bishops and priests to flourish their extremely long, flowing white facial hair. Today priests can sport beards or not, as they wish, although in some circumstances a beard can still seem unusual enough to send a kind of spiritual frisson down the spine.

The Gothic-style church, its walls



Father Charles Jeffries at the Church of Our Lady of Consolation

plain or whitewashed and adorned solely by the Stations of the Cross, is one of the best known and most popular in the Roman Catholic Church's Arundel and Brighton diocese. Hilaire Belloc is buried there, and the shrine of Our Lady of Consolation attracts regular pilgrims.

The church was especially full for the reception of a young woman, a former Anglican, into the Catholic community. Children ran around, laughed and giggled at the back or

ran to the front to play with teddy bears and other Christmas presents in a side chapel as we heard readings from Isaiah, Ephesians and St Matthew's Gospel.

As it was the season of Epiphany, our priest preached on the story of the three wise men. "We all have our star to follow," he said, "although if you were to read what the new Catholic catechism has to say about astrology, I wonder how it is that we accept that these men were guided by a star." The catechism seemed to

write the whole of astrology off as rubbish, he said, going on to agree that it could, at times, be just that. "When I read my horoscope while waiting in the queue at the barber, it always mentions great financial opportunities or my love life. And this is a priest. Really, it is bunkum. But we all do have a star to follow."

That lesson became clear when I was later taken on a tour of the timbered presbytery, a dimly lit maze of corridors, low ceilings and curving stairways. As we wound our

way up to the chapel in the rafters, we passed a brick-lined hole, now lit with a spyhole for visitors to see where priests hid during the days of suppression and persecution, when the penalty for being a priest was execution.

That this church exists at all was thanks to the Caryll family, supporters of the old religion, who sheltered priests disguised as servants. The secret chapel was built, complete with hiding holes, after the Gunpowder Plot, and according to legend people have been healed there. No records have been kept but a pair of 17th-century crutches testify to the story of one disabled labourer who was raised to the chapel six times by steepladder, and on the seventh time discarded his crutches and walked away, fully fit.

The chapel also contains the relics of the Venerable Francis Bell who gave himself up to save three young priests and was beheaded, hung, drawn and quartered at Tyburn in 1643. There is also a picture of this remarkable Catholic martyr that looks as if it could be a photograph taken yesterday. This was a man who certainly followed his star to its ultimate conclusion.

● The Church of Our Lady of Consolation and St Francis, Park Lane, West Croydon, West Sussex RH13 8LT (01893 710273).

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ A five-star guide ★
PARISH PRIEST: Father Charles Jeffries.

ARCHITECTURE: Built in the last century. ★★★★★

SERMON: Gently humorous. ★★★★★

MUSIC: Alleluia chorus from The Messiah, plus chamber-music style accompaniment to hymns. ★★★★★

LITURGY: Eucharist from the Roman missal. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Consoling. ★★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee, wine and tour of priest's house. ★★★★★

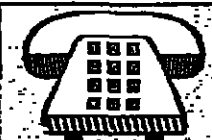
CHRISTMAS JUMBO CROSSWORD

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The winner of the Christmas Jumbo Crossword, who receives a methuselah of M&S & Chandon champagne and £100, is P. Hellawell of Leeds.

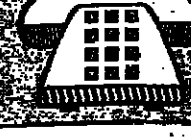
The five runners-up, who receive £100 each, are A. Chambers of London W11; C. Lyons of London E17; S. Somerville of Twickenham, Middlesex; S. Valentine of London W6; P. Wilkes of Aline, North Yorkshire.

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THE TIMES

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Oh brother, it's so quiet in Majorca

Four pages on Spain open with Tony Kelly enjoying monastic peace in the hills



I sat alone on the wide church terrace, watching the sun disappear behind the mountains. All I could hear was birdsong, and palm trees whistling in the breeze. The views stretched for miles on one side of the mountains; the plain, with small villages dotted here and there and surrounded by patchwork fields. Somewhere in the distance I heard the tinkling of sheep bells. I could have been anywhere in one of the undiscovered regions of southern Europe. But I was not. I was in Majorca.

There are many reasons not to stay in Majorca's hilltop sanctuaries. You will not get a hot bath every night. You will have to make your own bed. If you expect a minibar, soft towels and chocolates on your pillow, forget it. But if I have not yet managed to put you off, think of the rewards. Peace and solitude in some of Majorca's most beautiful places. Views to die for. A strange sense of history and of the presence of God. Not what you expect from Majorca at all.

The idea came when I was staying in a Palma hotel and the manager lent me his copy of a booklet by an English couple, Nick and Jill Carter. *A Stay in Mallorcan Monasteries* — he wrote the words, she drew the pictures — describes their journey of discovery around seven former hermitages. The monks have left but the monasteries remain, offering simple accommodation. Ten miles from Palma airport, Puig de Randa rises out of the central plain. The summit of this mountain is where it all began, when the 13th-century mystic Ramon Lull established Majorca's first hermitage to atone for a life of excess. His conversion from a devotion to wine and women came when he chased a married woman through Palma's streets, only for her to pull up her blouse to reveal disease-ridden breasts. Chastened, he retired to Puig de Randa to write scholarly texts, study languages and then become a missionary in Tunisia.

There were rooms available



The Ermita de Bonany, near the village of Petra in Majorca. Bonany means "good year"; the name derives from 1609, when villagers made a pilgrimage to pray for rain and their prayers were answered

here, but I decided to move on to the Ermita de Bonany, overlooking the village of Petra. Bonany means "good year", the name derives from 1609, when villagers made a pilgrimage to the chapel to pray for rain and their prayers were answered in abundance. It was here that another famous Mallorcan missionary, Junpero Serra, preached his last sermon before setting out for Mexico and California, where he was to found the missions which grew into San Diego and San Francisco. His bust is in the Capitol in Washington, where he is honoured as the "founder of California".

The pony-tailed caretaker led me to my "cell" in the former monks' quarters. He used to be a policeman but

gave it up for a more spiritual life; now he sells rosaries to pilgrims and produces leadlets advertising Buddhist meditation. The cell was white, with a heavy door, a vaulted ceiling and a picture of the Virgin on the wall. There was a wash-basin in the corridor and a cold shower, which I declined.

That night I was the only visitor. I crept into the chapel to light a candle, then went to bed at 9pm, slept for ten hours, and woke with sunlight flooding through the shutters. Later I went into Petra.

The street leading to Serra's house is adorned with ceramic paintings depicting his various missions. The house has been preserved, and the garden brims with cactus, palm

and bamboo. Next door is a Serra museum; the caretaker lives in the next street and will let you in for a donation.

Pollença, 20 miles north of Petra, is dominated by its Calvary hill, a flight of 365 stone steps lined with cypress trees. Puig de Maria ("Mary's mountain") overlooks the town; the monastery on its summit can be seen for miles around. The narrow road to the peak is all terrifying angles and impossible bends. I settled for an hour's walk to the top, from where the 365 steps I had climbed earlier suddenly seemed very small. My reward was a hot shower, for which I paid 300 pesetas (£1.60). The caretaker rustled up an omelette and a glass of house red, and by the time I returned to my cell the lights were sparkling over the bay of Alcudia below.

Luc, a short drive away, is Majorca's centre of pilgrimage. It was founded in the 13th century when an Arab shepherd boy, newly converted to Christianity, discovered a statue of the Virgin in the rock. Three times it was placed in the local church, but each time it returned to its hiding place, whereupon the villagers recognised a divine message and built a chapel to house it.

Nowadays La Moreneta ("The Little Dark One") is encrusted with jewels and acts as a magnet for both pilgrims and coach parties. The monastery has become more like a cheap hotel, popular with mountain walkers — a single room with bath costs about £10. "It's like staying at the Ritz," Nick Carter warned me, but I believe that the Ritz makes your bed for you. Certainly, though, Luc is the most comfortable of the monasteries in which to stay.

At 11.15 each morning, blue-cassocked choirboys perform for tourists: they sing again at dusk, when the tourists have gone. The first occasion is crowded and artificial, the second is peaceful and meaningful. At sunrise the next morning I climbed the Way of the Rosary and looked down on the sand-coloured buildings, now eerily quiet and enveloped in a golden glow.

I saved the remotest setting for last. To reach the Castell d'Alaró you have to drive for three miles up a pot-holed

track, park at Es Verger restaurant (try the roast lamb, cooked in a wood-burning oven), and climb for another hour up a steep, zigzagging path. When you reach the castle ruins you understand how the Moors managed to hold out here for 60 years after the Christian conquest. Fur-

ther up still, through the trees, is the tiny sanctuary of Nostra Senyora del Refugio. Incredibly, a young couple live here, running a hostel and restaurant (they even take Visa) and bringing supplies up by mule.

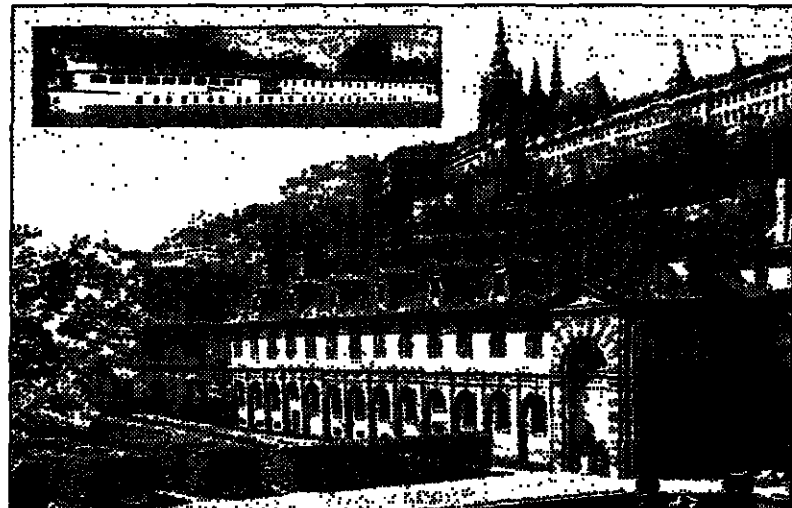
There was no shower, not even a cold one, the lavatory had no seat, the bedroom was

spartan and even with four blankets folded double I could not keep out the chill. But oh, the views: the Mediterranean on three sides, the entire Majorcan plain, the monasteries at Randa and Petra, the mountains where pine trees grow out of red rock. In the distance was Palma, its cath-

dral and castle visible by day, its lights sparkling at night. I could just make out the resorts around Palma Bay, by now throbbing with nightlife. Yet here I was, alone on the mountain with my own private view. Twelve miles apart, two sides of Majorca. I knew which one I preferred.

PASSAGE TO PRAGUE

A 7 NIGHT RIVER VOYAGE FROM POTSDAM TO PRAGUE ABOARD THE MS KONIGSTEIN



THE MS KONIGSTEIN

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The highlights of the voyage will be medieval Tangermunde, Luther's home town of Wittenberg, historic and culturally rich Dresden, the passage through the Elbe sandstone mountains and of course the incomparable beauty of Prague.

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THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 London (Heathrow) - Berlin. Morning flight with Lufthansa. Drive to Potsdam for an afternoon visit to see the palaces of Sanssouci and the Neues Palais. Late afternoon transfer to the MS Konigstein for early evening sailing.

DAY 2 Brandenburg - Magdeburg. Cruise along the Elbe-Havel Canal and Elbe River to join a full day excursion to medieval Tangermunde, one of the best examples of Central European medieval architecture. Moor overnight in Magdeburg.

DAY 3 Magdeburg - Wittenberg. Morning on the river. After lunch we will reach Dessau famous for its revolutionary Bauhaus designs. There will also be an opportunity to take a gondola ride through the lakes at Wörlich Park. Afternoon visit to the landscaped gardens and the various palaces. Rejoin the vessel in Wittenberg with time to explore on foot before dinner. Moor overnight in Elster.

DAY 4 Elster - Merseburg. In the mid-morning arrive at Tanger. Famous for its huge fortified castle which stands on the bank of the Elbe. It was also the meeting point of Allied and Soviet forces in May 1945. DAY 5 Merseburg - Dresden. Morning call at Meissen. Visit the porcelain factory and the St Moritzburg Castle. Sail on to Dresden arriving in time for lunch. Afternoon visit to Zwinger Palace, the most important baroque building in Germany housing collections of oriental and early Meissen porcelain. Moor overnight and watch the sun set over Dresden's unique baroque skyline.

DAY 6 Dresden - Zernoseky. The highlight of today will be the visit to Konigstein Castle, perched high above the river this huge fortress dates back more than 750 years. Today we shall pass some of the loveliest scenery on the route, entering Bohemia and the Czech Republic.

DAY 7 Zernoseky - Prague. Morning on the river. After an early lunch drive to Prague for an afternoon of exploration in a city which survived World War II unscathed. See Prague Castle, former imperial stronghold and residence of the Kings of Bohemia and the Gothic cathedral of St Vitus. Rejoin the vessel at Prague-Troja and sail into the city during our farewell dinner on board.

DAY 8 Prague - London (Heathrow). Disembark at Prague and drive to the Old Town. There will be time to explore the old quarter, the former Jewish ghetto and New Town before transferring to the airport in the late afternoon for the scheduled Czech Airlines flight.

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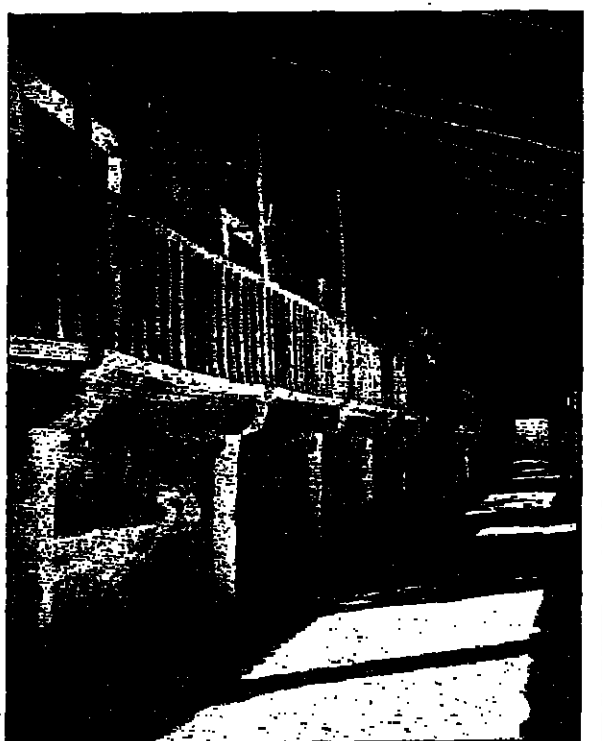
MAJORCA FACT FILE

■ British Midland (0345 554554) has daily flights from Heathrow to Palma. Prices until February 17 are £154 for a return flight (the stay must include a Saturday night).

■ Car hire: all the leading firms have offices at Palma airport but local companies offer competitive prices. A Seat Ibiza for five days, including insurance and a full tank of petrol, costs £112 through Hasso Rent A Car in Ca'n Pastilla (00 34 7126 1005). Another good local firm is Serra (00 34 7126 9411). Always check that the car hire price includes full insurance and VAT.

■ Monastery accommodation: Prices range from 900 pesetas (£4.70) at Alaró to 2,250 pesetas (£11.50) at Luc. It is best to book ahead in summer and at weekends. Telephone numbers (from UK, preface them with 00 34 7): Ermita de Bonany, Petra, 561101; Santuari del Puig de Maria, Pollença, 530235; Monestir de Luc, 517025; Santuari del Refugio, Alaró, 510480. You can also stay at Puig de Randa (660994) and at the Santuari de Sant Salvador near Felanitx (590654). All except Petra serve evening meals.

■ When to go: the summer can become almost unbearably hot and overcrowded in Majorca; however, in the winter the monasteries can be



Old pilgrims' quarters in Luc, with stables beneath

extremely cold. The best months to go are March to June and September to November.

■ Reading: *A Stay in Mallorcan Monasteries* (£3.50) is available from: Nick Carter, 81 Plains of Waterloo, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 8TE. The Travel Bookshop

(0171-229 5260) also recommends *Enjoying Majorca* by Pamela Leggs (G.G. Baker & Associates, £5.99, ISBN 0 906 6352 7); *Not Part of the Package* by Paul Richardson (Pan, £5.99, ISBN 0 330 3354 3); *Mallorca and Menorca* by Phil Lee (Rough Guides, £8.99, ISBN 1 851 83 216 2).

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Ronda, set in an amphitheatre of hills, is a white, flower-filled Moorish city of palaces and churches in cobbled streets. In the Spanish Civil War, 502 prisoners of the republicans were thrown 300ft to their deaths in the town gorge

After an hour of seeing Spain at its touristic worst, we turned right off the terrifying two-lane coastal motorway from Malaga and headed into the mountains.

Within minutes our spirits had lifted. We were driving through an arid landscape, empty of habitation apart from an occasional farmhouse with distant views of the sierras. Seemingly miles away at the top of the nearest mountain we could see a speck of white, which revealed itself slowly as we drove ever upwards through hairpin bends as the village of Gaucin.

It was in this small mountain community, 1,300ft up on the edge of the Sierra Bermeja and dominated by a Moorish castle that I spent one of the most idyllic weeks of my life last summer.

We stayed at Las Pilas, a Spanish aristocrat's villa with its own helipad, set on a sloping hill away from the road in lush gardens of roses, oleander, bougainvillea and geraniums. The villa could sleep nine people in five bed-

A welcome in Ronda valley

rooms, including a suite with sitting room and bathroom. On the top level there was a huge shaded terrace for eating and reading. Another terrace below led from the studio — a perfect retreat for the teenagers of the party — which had its own sitting room, bedrooms and bathroom, to a swimming pool and a covered pergola with a fridge.

The most breathtaking feature of Las Pilas, however, was the view. All around us towered the Serrania de Ronda mountains. Ahead, across the vast valley of the river Guadiaro, all we could see, just, was the seaside town of Estepona to the east and the Rock of Gibraltar 30 miles to the west. On the far horizon at night, demonstrating that there was still some human life on the planet, were the twinkling lights of Algeiras on the coast and, shimmering

distantly and tantalisingly beyond, the lights of Morocco. More romantic, the 13th-century castle of Gaucin was flooded.

Our Andalusian holiday could not have been more ideal for what I wanted, which was a week of flopping out. As we roused ourselves in the mornings the mist was lifting off the mountains and there was the tinkling sound of the donkeys' bells as they trudged to work. We breakfasted on the terrace in the sunshine and then swam or read or shopped in Gaucin for our al fresco lunches made from fresh fish, meat, fruit and vegetables, accompanied by £2-£3 bottles of wine. After that a siesta,

more reading or swimming, and it was surprising how quickly it was time for the vodka and tonic before setting out for our evening meal.

Spreading along the top of the mountain, Gaucin, a village of narrow, huddled streets and whitewashed houses with balconies dripping with geraniums, is a superb base for exploring Andalusia. Although its population is, at most, 2,000, the village has a daily fish market, a working baker, several small supermarkets, a special market on Saturdays, two decent restaurants and several tapas bars offering ample snacks of

prawns, chicken, ham, artichokes and many other Spanish delicacies.

The Mediterranean beaches of Sotogrande and Estepona are only 40 minutes away, Tarifa on the Atlantic coast, the self-styled windsurfing capital of Europe, is easily reached, and Jerez, Seville, Granada and Gibraltar are less than four hours away by car. Golf, riding, walking, wind-surfing, bird-watching are all on offer.

We chose to go to Ronda for our day out, an hour's drive on roads winding through spectacular scenery and passing by several of Spain's legendary small white villages — the pueblos blancos — perched

perilously on the mountainsides. Seen from the distance, Ronda looked like a city of ugly tower blocks. Once within the walls, however, Ronda, set in an amphitheatre of hills, is utterly enchanting — a white, flower-filled Moorish city of palaces and churches in narrow, cobbled streets. Its pedestrian area busy with shoppers and dotted with outdoor cafes and always with views to the surrounding sierras.

Ronda is a city with a tumultuous history. Its Tajo, the veriginous gorge of the river Guadalevin, was where a mob from Malaga threw 512 prisoners of the republicans over the cliff into the river

300ft below in the first month of the Civil War. There are also plenty of sights to savour, most notably the sumptuous 13th-century church of Santa Maria la Mayor and its breathtaking Baroque high altar. Santa Maria was originally the principal mosque of Ronda. It was converted into a church by Ferdinand the Catholic but still has the original minaret as its tower.

Yet another insight into the passions of Spain is offered by the splendid 18th-century Plaza de Toros, its second oldest bullring, the Mecca of bullfighting and once the playground of El Cordobes. Any visitor new to the passion for killing bulls will be surprised by the size and elegance of the arena. They can learn still more from its fascinating matadors' museum.

As a dedicated Francophile, Spain for me last summer was an experiment — would I enjoy any other European country other than France? — that became a revelation, especially in how easy it was to escape the over-built ugliness and the crowds of the coast. The main factor that had inhibited me from holidaying in Spain before, once away

from the coast, the crowds disappear. On our journeys from Gaucin to Ronda or the coast, we met hardly any cars and amid the grandeur of the sierras there was a sense of space and emptiness that is rare in summer France.

The real revelation was how much cheaper it was to shop and eat out in Spain compared with France (although France may fare better this year now that the exchange rate is heading towards Fr9 to the £). We went out to eat almost every night — on two successive nights to Gaucin's petrol station (where food is served) and then to Gaucin station (at El Colmenar several miles away across the hills) and dined on salads and fish fresh from the sea off Algeiras for £5 a head, including plenty of wine. Food and drink was equally cheap in shops and supermarkets.

A holiday only for the well-off? Surprisingly not. Seven of us lived like millionaires for £335 each, including flights for the week. Nine could stay at Las Pilas this summer for £170 each, plus a flight from £143, plus sharing the hire of a car, and still more cheaply in May and June.

Although I love France, after the experience of Gaucin last summer I shall certainly return to Spain.

BRIAN MACARTHUR

The author was a guest of CV Travel.

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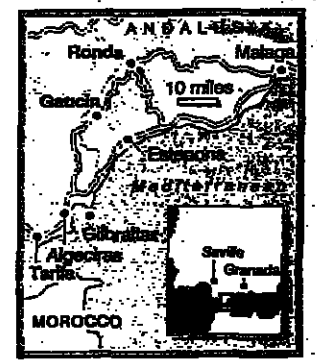
FACT FILE

■ CV Travel, 43 Cadogan Street, London SW3 2PR (0171-581 0851), has several properties in Andalusia. One week at Las Pilas costs from £1,035 in May and June, rising to £1,745 in July and August, based on nine people sharing. The company will arrange flights to Malaga from £143 return, and car hire from £140 a week.

■ Tips: a car is essential. Few shops or restaurants take credit cards: those that do only take Visa. Even in July, it can be cold at night, so pack sweaters.
■ Eating out: Hotel Nacional, Gaucin — an old, hidden hotel in the centre of Gaucin

where British soldiers and travellers have stayed since the Napoleonic wars (00 34 5215 1029). Los Hermanos at Gaucin station in El Colmenar (00 34 5215 3109). Bar Pilar, opposite Gaucin petrol station (00 34 5215 1347). La Alcazara (00 34 5215 1200). Molina del Santo (00 34 5216 7151). Puerto del Negro (00 34 5215 1239).

■ Reading: *Lazy days Out in Andalusia*, by Jeremy Wayne (Cadogan, £9.99, ISBN 1 860 11060 6). *South from Granada*, by Gerald Brennan (Penguin, £7.99, ISBN 0 140 16700 5). *A Rose for Winter*, by Laurie Lee (Penguin, £4.99, ISBN 0 140 03319 X).



Lounging with the lizards

In retrospect, we probably overreacted to our first Catalan motorway lesson. This was at the hands of the hire-car company partner, whose offer to drive the first leg of our journey from Barcelona airport to Gerona we had gladly accepted. We were terrified — the locals drive fast and close, and overtake on reflex. But most of them, we were later relieved to discover, make allowances for humping foreign visitors.

And you do need four wheels in Catalonia. So vast and varied is the region, embracing the Costa Brava and all manner of natural, cultural and historical treasures, that car hire charges are repaid a hundredfold in satisfaction gained. Bicycles can be rented, but you need legs (and nerves) of steel.

Catalonia has a mild climate — we travelled in early June, unseasonably hot in the 80Fs and low 90Fs — and offers clean beaches and scenic grandeur (Costa Brava translates more realistically as "rugged coast" than "brave coast"). And being only a 12-hour drive from Calais or a two-hour hop from Gatwick, no wonder Catalonia has attracted generations of British visitors.

A few decades ago they could stay in comfort for a week for about 150 pesetas, then equivalent to a local man's monthly wage. But since inflation and then recession began to bite, our contribution to the Catalan coffers has declined. Many formerly British-owned villas now belong to seasonal occupants from elsewhere in Europe.

mostly from Spain itself. Our villa, a few minutes' vertiginous drive from the coast between the hilltop towns of Palafrugell and Begur, near Pals, was in an area considered upmarket and particularly popular with Spanish and European Union politicians.

Opera singers, for some reason, have also gravitated there: José Carreras stays regularly in the seaside village of Tamarit. Montserrat Caballé in nearby Aiguà Blava. Other migrant celebrities are too numerous to name, we were told, but a trip to Palafrugell market might bring us unexpectedly chin-chin with Jimmy Hill.

Fortunately for Mr Hill, at any rate, people-spotting was not on our itinerary and Palafrugell proved memorable for other reasons.

Busy all week but much expanded on Sundays, its market at first appeared to offer little temptation besides quite pricey lacework, although the atmosphere was enlivened by a one-legged busker strumming gypsy and flamenco tunes.

Then, heading downhill, we reached the market garden section. Revelation! Giant spring onions and beef tomatoes, tubs of black cherries, racks of drying spices, boxes of edible snails. One stall offered a dozen varieties of olive, some the size of golfballs — take your own container and dip in.

Another delight was the nearby pastisseria, where we

selected a ring-shaped pastry topped with crystallised fruits from a fabulous range of multicoloured confections.

For non-vegetarian foodies, Catalonia offers ample respite from the ubiquitous seafood. For a light snack, try sardines on *pan con tomà* — thick bread glazed with salt, oil and tomato seeds — or *sones*, tiny fish like whitebait which you smother in lemon juice and munch down whole.

Or you can go the whole hog, as it were, and try *gambes* — pig's cheeks — which sound repellent but bring us unexpectedly chin-chin with Jimmy Hill.

Another solution is walking. Budding Laurie Lees can cross Spain on foot following a planned route if they so desire,

which our hosts produced from a mysterious unlabelled bottle. To burn off excess calories on the morning after, golf is the preferred year-round pursuit of many visitors. There are six international courses within an hour's drive of Pals, and golf tourism in this official PGA training area is booming as never before.

The main alternatives are horse-riding, fishing, bird-watching, windsurfing, sub-aqua (mostly at Estarit) or skiing. With the Pyrenees just a three-hour drive from Barcelona, it is perfectly possible to rise early, ski all day and be back by nightfall.

Another solution is walking. Budding Laurie Lees can cross Spain on foot following a planned route if they so desire,

but we settled for a few gentle nature rambles. Inland, hampered by an absence of foot-path signs, we made slow but pleasant progress through wheatfields, olive groves, vineyards and woods, admiring the clouds of butterflies and trying to ignore the *colo de cozz* signs.

We assumed these simply meant that trespassers would be prosecuted, but later found out their purpose is to discourage out-of-season hunting. In winter, we were reliably informed, everyone strong enough to level a rifle heads for the thickly wooded hills to blast anything that moves, principally pigeons, fawns, rabbits and the ultimate prize, wild boar.

One enjoyable short walk lay over the high cliffs between



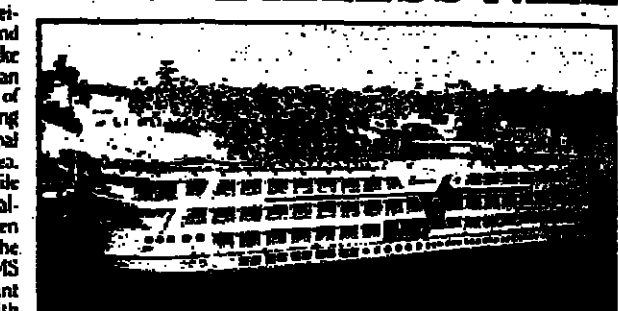
Sa Riera and Platja de Pals, along which can be found the best small beach for miles. A painted sign on the rock proclaims this a *playa nudista*, although in fact it is a costumes-optional cove, partly shaded by the towering cliffs, with fine sand and even a makeshift bar (complete with a nude barman, naturally).

To gain a new perspective on the coast, explore its caves and discover the tiny coves

Continued on next page

A Special Announcement

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ITINERARY IN BRIEF
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Mondays: per person in twin
1997: January 20, 27, 28, 29

February 3, 10, 17, 24, 28, 29
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 28, 29
March 24, 27, 30, 31, 03, 05
Apr 7, 14, 21, 28, 03, 05
May 5, 12, 19, 26, 03, 05
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 03, 05
July 7, 14, 21, 28, 03, 05
August 4, 11, 18, 25, 03, 05
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... in the foothills of the Pyrenees the men of Pamplona battle to become heroes worthy of Hemingway

Cock and bull stories of the mad race

They definitely have a thing about bulls in Pamplona. Even on a grey December day, with snow in the wind from the mountains and stillness in the empty streets, the ghosts of the great black beasts of San Fermin seem to pound along Estafeta Street.

The pride of generations of eager young men and the rush of the bulls has permeated the stones of the city walls, from the exquisite Baroque town hall to the huge bullring with its bottlenecked entrance which strikes terror into the hearts of breathless, wearying runners. The annual, crazy fiesta from July 6-14 seems to hang over Pamplona like a promise — or a threat — for the rest of the year.

Gabriel is slight and fair, in his early thirties. Has he run with the bulls?

"Of course. The sensation is unique. Every morning we gather, 15 minutes before they are let loose. If you are not there 15 minutes early you are excluded. Then you feel huge disappointment — and total relief."

"We are all in white with scarlet faja [sash] and panuelico [kerchief]. You feel too visible, too vulnerable. Five minutes before the start it is very, very quiet. The only time the streets of this city are silent. You can smell fear."

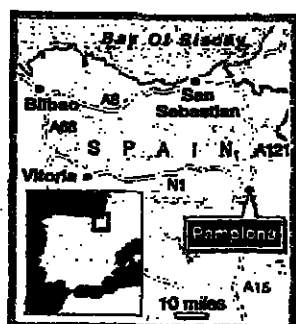
Why does he do it? Gabriel's eyes light up: "Because I love it," he says.

He likes to run with a friend, "because then we share the responsibility for those left at home. But we never say this aloud."

We are talking in the bar El Txoco in the arcaded Plaza del Castillo, in the centre of the ancient walled city. A bottle of Pacharan warms the day for us. Here, in the province of Navarra, in the Pyrenean foothills, where the winters are snowy and cold and the summers hot and arid, bilberries flourish on the mountainsides. From this local fruit and the liquor of aniseed is brewed the local speciality, Pacharan. A lot is home-made and decanted into three-litre containers. Because of some strange loophole in Spanish law, as long as the drink goes into three-litre bottles, tax and liquor duty are avoided. The tipple is famous all over Spain but, they say, is best drunk in its home town.

Later we move on to the Bodega Sarria in Estafeta Street, the narrow, tunnel-like street where the bulls run in summer. As we eat succulent spicy sausage (chistorra), an excellent black pudding called Morcilla de Arroz, and Ajofarriera, a melting cod and garlic stew, Gabriel and the young waiter exchange "pinned against the wall" stories.

The pair look like fishermen boasting of their catch as they spread their arms to show the width of the bulls' horns.



The local roast, or *carreta*, is a pleasant, light and dry accompaniment to the highly flavoured home-cooked food.

Pamplona is a city filled with life and legend. Its name comes from the Roman General Pompey, who camped on this hilltop in 74 BC. It became an Episcopal see in the 6th century and the cloisters of the cathedral date from 1277. The citadel is 16th century and rises elegantly, holding in its heart a relaxed and civilised people.

Here a Basque nobleman, who was later canonised Saint Ignatius, founded the Jesuit order, and to this day every third male in Pamplona seems to be named Ignaki, Euskera for Ignacio. Here, too, in a less civilised moment, San Fermin (St Firmianus) was martyred and dragged around the streets by a bull... which takes us back to La Sociedad Taurina, or the Bull Society, in Plaza del Castillo.

Overlooking the street is a balcony, empty now in the winter dusk, but during the second week in July it is packed, day and night, a prized perch for viewing the madness below.

Inside, in the warm clubrooms and bar, Juan Roncal holds sway. He shows me the gallery of heads of huge bulls killed in the ring. The black Muira bulls are notorious for their ferocity, but there is an unexpected treasure here: the head of a Catrigriri bull, killed in 1899. This breed has since become extinct. Brown and smaller than the Muira, it was none the less known as the most dangerous bull in the world.

"He may have been small but he had colossal *cojones*," Juan says, referring to another part of the animal's anatomy. The last of the Catrigriri bulls looks on with sullen eyes.

A group of senior Pamplonians are playing *mus*, an obscure Basque card game, at one of the long oak tables. Although their days of running with the bulls are over, they warm to the subject.

"Hemingway ruined Sanfermines with that book [*Fiesta: The Sun Also Rises*]. Now the locals leave the town and go to the little fiestas in the villages to get away from the crowds."

"Yes," agrees another card



An enraged fighting bull rounds a corner as a fallen man tries to take cover during last year's San Fermin fiesta in Pamplona. The race through the streets breeds tall stories of bravery

player. "They have no idea, the tourists. They come pouring in here like floodwaters and some of them always want to run. They are a great danger. They start in front and then tire and trip by the time they reach the bullring. Then it is our boys, running behind them, who are gored."

"We do not understand them, these foreigners. One American ran with his wife and she was injured and went to hospital. The next day he ran again."

The old man shrugs in despair at such ungallant and incomprehensible behaviour. Don Rafael Lagana introduces himself. He made 30 runs over the years. On the third day of the festival in 1969 he was gored and trampled, but lives to tell the tale, with many reiterations of its truthfulness and kissings of crossed forefingers to negate the doubtings of Juan Roncal behind the bar.

Juan watches with the jaun-

ty of a man who probably holds the world record for listening to cock and bull stories.

When and why did they stop running? One hears of the great Geronimo Echague, who ran in every Sanfermines for 70 years.

"Geronimo wasn't married," Heads nod sagely over the card table. "It's not the same once you are married. Your girlfriend wants a hero, a crazy guy. Your wife wants a breadwinner, alive."

But even in this haven for reminiscences and, perhaps, a little boasting, the essential humour and honesty of the native Pamplonian is evident.

What was the overriding sensation, season after season, tearing through the echoing streets just ahead of the bulls?

Loud laughter echoes round La Sociedad Taurina and they answer with one accord: "Panic."

KAREN CONSIDINE

British Airways and Iberia fly daily to Bilbao. Prices until mid-February are: British Airways (0345 222747) from £104 Iberia (0171-830 0011) from £182.

P&O Ferries (0990 980980) sails twice weekly from Portsmouth to Bilbao. Standard return fares from January 28, for car and driver, are from £275. Pamplona is about 90 miles from Bilbao using the A68 and N1. More picturesque but longer is the route taking the A8 past San Sebastian and then the N121 up into Navarra province from Behobia.

Where to stay: on the pilgrim's road to Santiago, Pamplona has plenty of hotels and

PAMPLONA FACT FILE

B&B accommodation. There are also three campsites outside the town — packed during Sanfermines. Reading: *Death in the Afternoon*, by Ernest Hemingway (Arrow, £5.99, ISBN 0 099 90910 3). *Fiesta: The Sun Also Rises*, by Ernest Hemingway (Arrow, £4.99, ISBN 0 098 99085 0). *Michelin Green Guide Spain* (£8.99, ISBN 2 061 52302 1). Spanish Tourist Board, 0171-499 0901. Tourist information centre in Pamplona, Duque de Ahumada 3 (00 34 4842 7645).



The head of a bull killed in the ring

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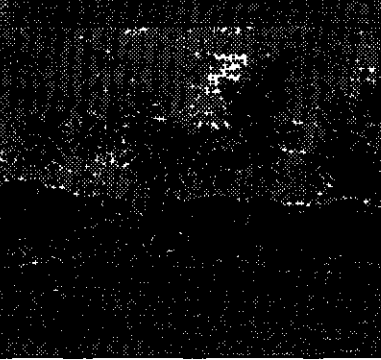
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ashore our team will be joined by local experts. Many of the excursions will be undertaken in the ship's fleet of inflatable Zodiacs. These safe and adaptable craft allow us access to otherwise unreachable spots, and permit us to explore remote uninhabited places with ease.



ISLANDS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

A VOYAGE FROM DAR ES SALAAM TO THE SEYCHELLES BY WAY OF THE COMORES AND MADAGASCAR ABOARD THE MS CALEDONIAN STAR 23 March - 8 April 1997

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 London (Gatwick) - Dar Es Salaam with British Airways, evening departure.

DAY 2 Dar Es Salaam - Arrive in the late morning and after a brief city tour and lunch embark Caledonian Star and sail.

DAY 3 Zanzibar - Here the colourful harbour will be crowded with dhows. Visit this Arab style city with its long narrow streets, bazars and houses with intricately carved doorways.

DAY 4 At sea

DAY 5 Moroni, Grand Comore - The main island of the Comore group is dominated by a jagged volcano. Visit the capital of Moroni.

DAY 6 Dzaoudzi, Mayotte - This steep volcanic island is covered with rain forest. Walk to the crater lake and spend time in the charming capital.

DAY 7 Majunga, Madagascar - Drive to Ampijoroa Nature Reserve, an important tract of western dry forest habitat that remains untouched and contains a wealth of unique flora and fauna.

DAY 8 Nosy Tanikely, Madagascar - Landing by Zodiac we will explore this tiny island which is an officially protected marine reserve. Wonderful snorkelling and swimming and for the walkers lovely beaches and tide pools.

DAY 9 Diego Suarez, Madagascar - At daybreak we will enter the dramatic Diego Suarez harbour and make our way to the Malagasy rain forest at the Mount Amber National Park.

DAY 10 Assumption, Outer Seychelles - Our first call in the Seychelles will be at the beautiful island of Assumption. There will be time for swimming and snorkelling or a beach walk.

DAY 11 Aldabra - Go ashore by Zodiac to the islands referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as 'one of nature's treasures and should belong to the whole world'. Aldabra is unique and we are privileged visitors by kind permission of the Seychelles government. See the varied birdlife, sea life and onshore giant tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years.

DAY 12 At sea

DAY 13 Desroches - Another remote and heavenly paradise island awaits. Swim and snorkel in the turquoise waters around the reef or join one of the leaders on a walk through the woodlands.

DAY 14 Aride - La Carieuse - Once a plantation island, Aride is now owned by the Royal Society of Nature Conservation and is one of the most important breeding grounds for seabirds in the Indian Ocean. Relax on La Carieuse in the afternoon.

DAY 15 Praslin - The 'Forgotten Eden' - the second largest Seychelles island is a wonderful place. Best known for its Vallée de Mai, one of only two places in the world where the botanical rarity, the coco de mer grows wild. Here in the valley we will explore this exotic palm forest. La Digue surely one of the most beautiful tropical islands in the world. Explore on foot, bicycle and oxcart.

DAY 16 Mahé - Arrive in the morning and disembark. Island drive and transfer to a first class hotel for day use rooms until our evening departure by British Airways to London.

DAY 17 London (Gatwick) - Arrive in the morning.

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3 2 beds	£4260	£4845
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Prices subject to surcharge. Ports subject to change. Price includes Economy class 721/73 air travel, 14 nights aboard the Caledonian Star on full board, shore excursions, port taxes, day use rooms in Mahé, transfers, UK departure tax, gratuities to guides, drivers, porters and Caledonian Star crew, services of Guest Speakers and Expedition Staff. Not included: Travel Insurance, Tanzania visa, airport taxes.

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inaccessible from the landward side, the man to approach is Paco. He is a veteran boat captain and a local celebrity. He has seven small boats of varying swiftness at his disposal, and he can be contacted at the Bar Royal on Tamarit seafront — "any time, any day", apparently.

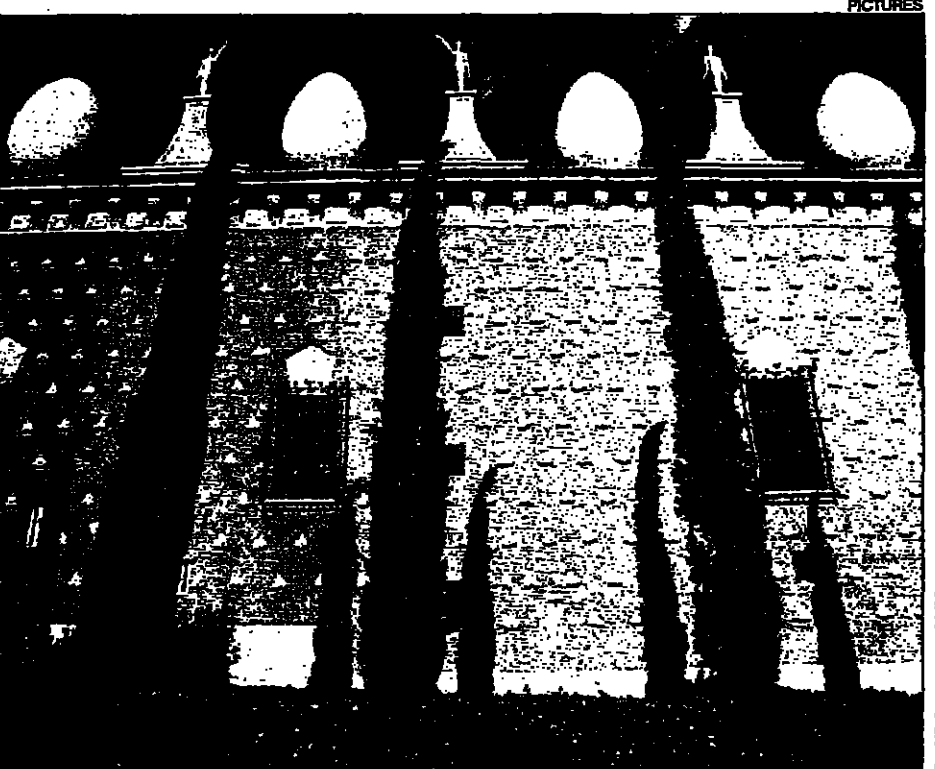
As for grander diversions, two highly recommended to us were the Greek and Roman ruins at Empúries, an ancient Greek port, and the mind-boggling rock formations at Montserrat. With limited time, though, we opted instead for a visit to the Dalí museum at Figueres, a town close to the French border and with an indefinably French atmosphere to its narrow, busy streets.

tribute to the wild-eyed genius in his home town, housed in a bizarre building described as "the largest Surrealist object in the world", the museum is blissfully cool, teasingly arranged and stuffed with Dalí treasures — altogether a magnificent memorial to the artist who died in 1989.

Back on the coast, we divided our remaining time between driving around the medieval hill villages, most notably Pals and nearby Peretallada — less pristine in its restoration but equally picture-postcard pretty — and idling at our villa.

This was roomy, comfortable and sensibly rather than showily appointed, with typical dark wood furniture. Less typically it had no radio or television unless requested: pure bliss.

So instead of spending evenings in audiovisual stupor, we sat on the veranda reading, listening to the night birds or watching geckos devour moths (by day we also saw field mice, snakes and two large, acid-green lizards like chameleons, which were almost a foot long). Naturally, such indulgence has its price. Rental charges



The Dalí museum at Figueres, described as "the largest Surrealist object in the world"

for villas and apartments fall appreciably in the long low season, from September to June, rising to between £400 and £2,500 a week in midsummer, with August the most expensive month. There is no shortage of demand, particularly for the more upmarket properties, so early booking is advisable.

As for the cost of goods in general, we found prices compared quite favourably with those in Britain — and if you want a Catalan souvenir, the best buys are probably wine or ceramics. The latter, mostly produced in the town of La Bisbal, come in combinations of traditional hues: deep blue, daffodil, pale green and a rather unfortunate muddy-yellow.

When discussing purchases, it helps to smile sweetly and attempt a few words of Catalan (quite distinct from Castil-

ian Spanish). Until Franco's death in 1975, speaking Catalan in the street was an arrestable offence, so its use now has become a matter of fierce regional pride. The normal greeting, by the way, is *bon dia* rather than *buenos dias*.

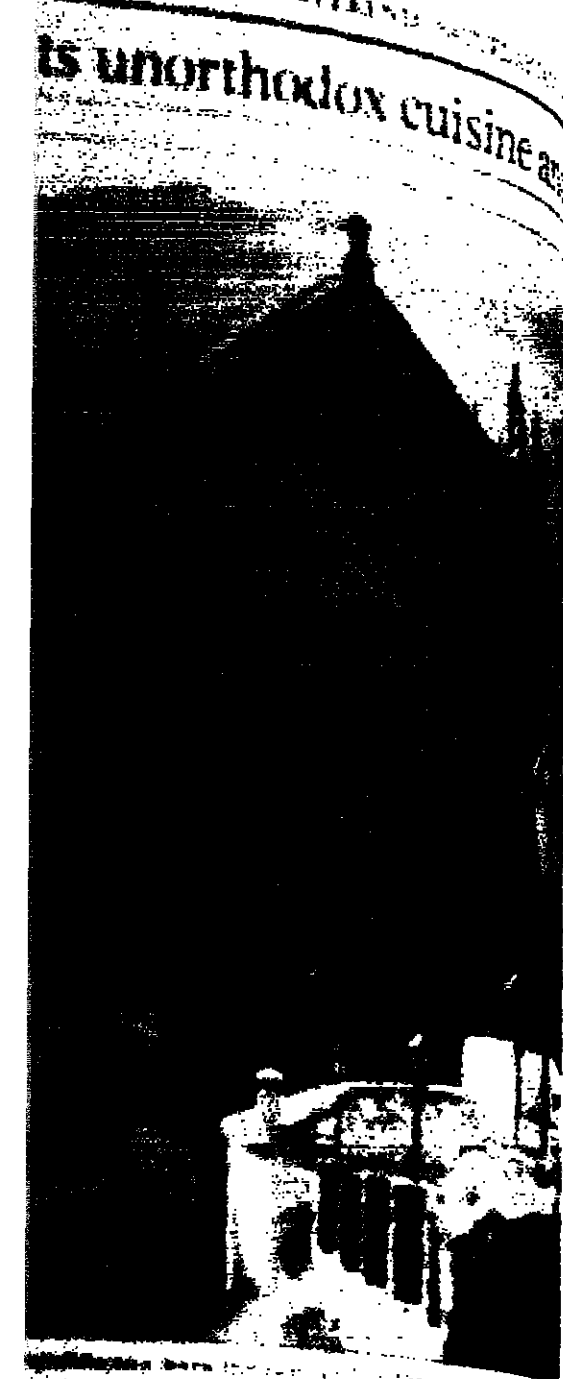
By the end of a week of lazing in the sun, loitering in cool churches and sipping café con leche in medieval surroundings, we were so thoroughly rested that even the drive back to Barcelona along the autopista (a toll road, so don't part with all your pesetas) passed in a pleasant daze. Had all those suicidal drivers who seemed to surround us on arrival decided to stay at home?

JIM SOAR

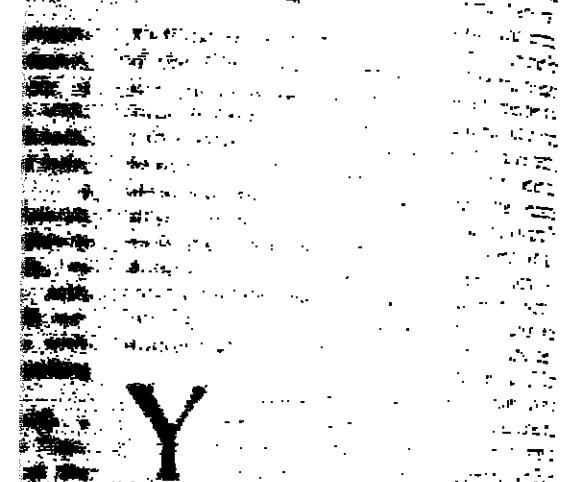
The author was a guest of PCI Holidays. Flights courtesy of Air Europa

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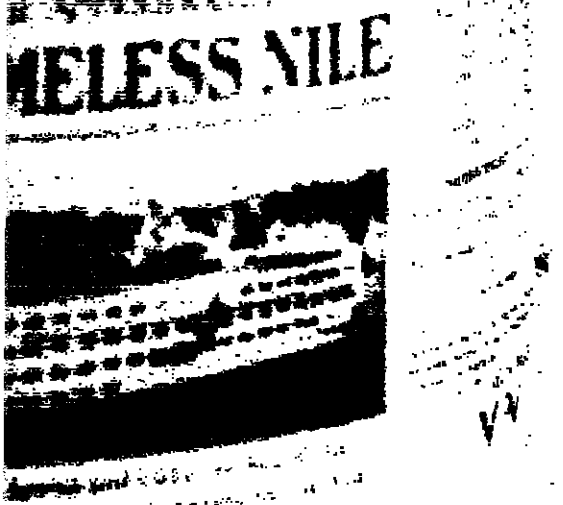
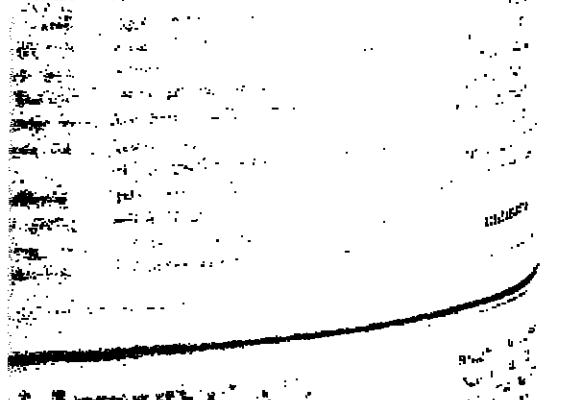
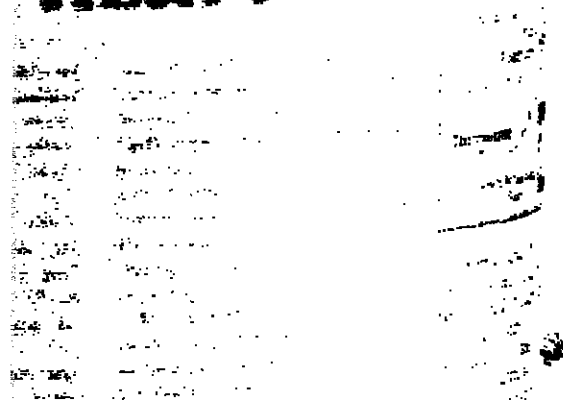
■ PCI Holidays, Bournemouth International Airport, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 6SE (01202 901800) specialises in Catalonia and Minorca, offering properties from apartments to villas. Prices from £175 to £1,145 (low season), £300 to £2,085 (high season) per villa per week. ■ Air Europa (UK agent Travel Now (0171-233 8100)) flies to Barcelona from £127 return. British Airways (0345-222 747) and Iberia (0171-830 0011) fly to Barcelona from £104. ■ Reading: *Barcelona* by Robert Hughes (Harvill, £12, ISBN 1 860 46096 8). *Voices of the Old Sea* by Norman Lewis (Picador, £5.99, ISBN 0 330 34561 3). *Homage to Catalonia* by George Orwell (Penguin, £6.99, ISBN 0 140 18231 4).



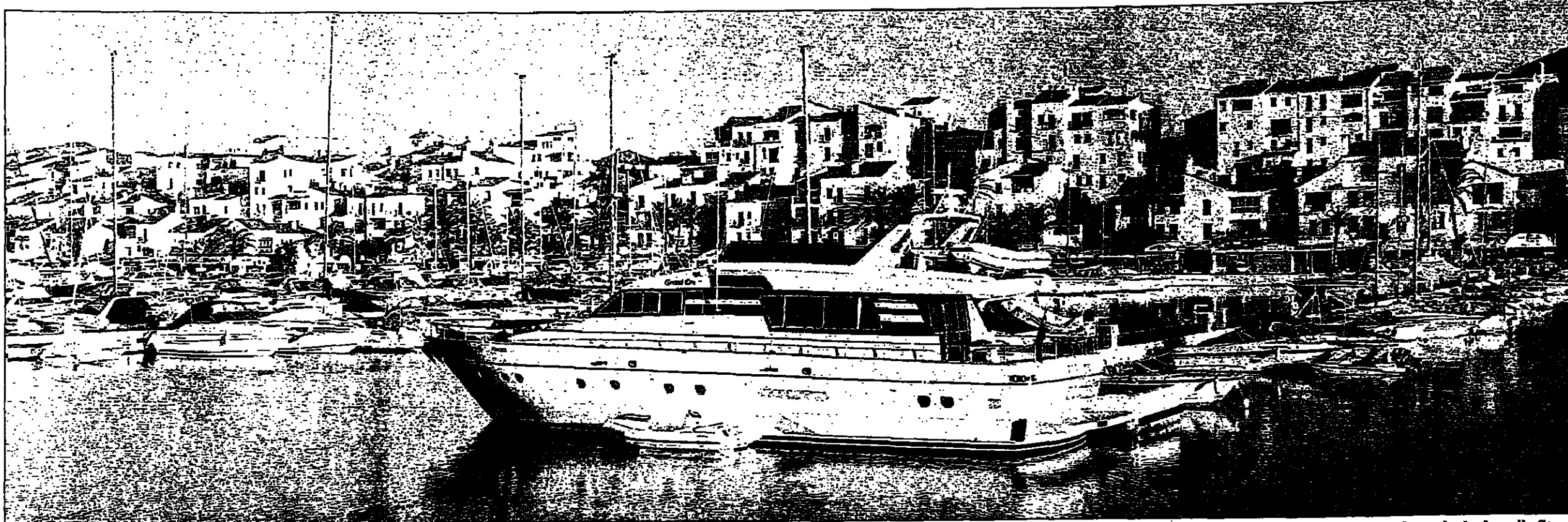
alley



lizards



Spain: More Versace than soggy chips on the Costa del Sol; plus fiestas from a hotel balcony up the coast



In Puerto Banus, where the real money is, ocean-going yachts clutter a harbour lined with restaurants and designer boutiques. The design god of Puerto Banus, however, appears to be Versace — only his high-style trashy look really fits

Marbella's embarrassment of riches

The name "Marbella" has a certain ring when spoken by the British. On the downside, it evokes the furious and trashy package colonisation of the southern Spanish coast that has been going on since the 1950s. On the upside, it suggests a certain ease — reasonably close to home, guaranteed weather, beaches, good, affordable wine and, with care, exciting food. Plus, if you stray a few miles inland, there is the real Spain of blinding white mountain villages and fierce, dark, fascinating churches.

The good news is the upside is winning. The Spanish are tiring of the lager-and-vornit image and want to take their resorts upmarket. This is not that difficult. The ghostly holiday ribbon developments of Torremolinos and Fuengirola are easily avoided; the vertiginous joys of Ojen and Ronda are gratifyingly close.

The trick is to get the best of the sun, sand and Rioja and keep the real Spain in focus. If you are of an ironic disposition you can also take in the spectacle of the supremely bad taste wealth that dots the coastline from Puerto Banus to Marbella.

But first the basics. West of Marbella — ie, away from the centres of grot — the coastal scene



takes on a Californian air of low-rise, fairly tasteful architectural extravagance. There are pockets of high life consumption — expensive car showrooms and so on that indicate you are well away from the world of the soggy chip. To be precise the Marbella Club is clearly the place to stay.

Founded in the 1950s by Prince Alfonso de Hohenlohe, the club is so self-consciously not Fuengirola that you suspect the front desk could not even give you directions as to how to get there.

The club occupies a deep site that runs down from the road to the sea. Suites and rooms are entangled in the thick vegetation and are decorated in the cool, stylish, Mediterranean

way. At the sea end this becomes a rather loopy but visually successful "Beach Club". The beach is, of course, perfect and there are two good pools.

The bar and restaurant at night have a startling social dimension. Everything food and drinkwise is as good as you would expect — the prices are high — but what makes an evening there worthwhile is trying to figure out the nuances of Spanish society. Big-time aristos come here to dine and the waiters — there is no other word for it — grovel. This can result in moments of lily service, but it's worth it for the spectacle.

So that's the beach-food-wine side of things settled. Finding the real Spain outside is easy. Ojen is a

short drive, Ronda slightly longer. Ojen is the Spanish mountain village which all other Spanish mountain villages aspire to be. Gleaming white, it was clearly built by madmen who wanted to find the most impossible place to erect a village. The streets slope and swoop. And, amazingly considering you are so near the teeming coast, the people stare at you as if you were exotic. Clearly even these few miles of mountain roads are enough to keep the heavily-bellied Brits away. Eat tapas here. They don't speak a word of English, but you will manage.

Ronda is a full-blooded tourist destination with its stunning gorge spanned by three bridges, one Roman, one Moorish and one 18th-

century — dividing the town. The streets are lined with the usual tourist stuff, but Ronda, being so stately and so strange, can take it. Eat lunch at Don Miguel, on the north side of the gorge.

You could go on with the real Spain — the whole of Andalusia is spread before you — but, after Ronda, the driving distances start to become a little serious and you might start to feel anxious at being so far from a beach.

One slightly mad excursion you might try is not into the real Spain, but into the real Britain — Gibraltar. This is a longish but straight-forward drive from the Marbella Club and it's definitely worth it for



balance, the design god of Puerto Banus appears to be Versace — only his high-style trashy look really fits. And the place is so hermetic, so sealed off from the outside world that the shops and the people have become one. Look at the dummies in the shops and the people: they are the same.

Consumption has become so smooth so quick here that the people and the products are becoming one. Inevitably a mall, a surprisingly good one, has sprung up a couple of hundred yards behind the harbour. At night there are discos, probably hundreds of them, but my irony deserted me and I didn't stay to find out.

But what we have here is a more dynamic and varied holiday than you might have imagined from that resonant name "Marbella". The strange clashes of culture — tacky, wonderful or weird — are exciting. You can stare at the villagers in Ojen or the Eurotrash in Puerto Banus for hours. Or, of course, you can stare at your increasingly enmeshed English skin.

Try it, but stay at the club as a precaution. However crunchy the cultural mix out there, you want to get back to authentic luxury.

CHRISTENA APPLEYARD
The author was a guest of Elegant Resorts.

Never say die before you've taken that trip to Nerja

I had always supposed that I would go to my maker before I went to the Costa del Sol. But after a summer of sickness — our household at times was like *Casualty* — we were in need of out-of-season sun and I remembered that my sister had long enthused about the town of Nerja, a far cry, she said, from the Costa del Sol of popular myth.

We arrived — as one does on bucket shop flights — in the small hours, and found ourselves in a charming, pastel-coloured hotel overlooking the town square. The hotel garage was deep in the bowels of the earth. We drove the car onto

an ancient lift which creaked its way down alarmingly. In its heyday, it must have been the wonder of southern Spain.

I know not who saved Nerja from the fate that befell much of the Costa del Sol, but saved it was. It is helped by its location, sitting above a cliff, which protects its coves and beaches from development. And someone had the wit to ban high-rise buildings. The streets echo to British (and German) voices, but it remains a small Spanish town enjoyed by local people. Its chief feature is the Balcon de Europa, a platform jutting over the Mediterranean.

Palm-lined, it could have been designed by nature with strolling in mind.

Behind lie narrow streets, where authentic tapas bars — we had the finest fish meals of our lives at El Chispa, a large helping of anchovies and sea snails, orange clams and tiny red mullet — coexist with pubs showing TV soccer.

One night, guided by a local expat, we walked west towards the sunset, and our inland to an unprepossessing restaurant, El Venia Miguel, where we drank potent Jumilla wine and ate stewed rabbit. Although it was on the coast road, on our own we

would not have given the building a second glance.

I had been told to walk for my health. Most days we divided between an exploration of the hills behind Nerja and a few hours on a beach. Elma Thompson, an exiled Mancunian, and her late husband, Denis, have written guides to local walks. The Thompsons are no Wainwrights, but the books exude a feisty defiance of landowners who try to block rights of way and take one up hidden valleys and through avocado-laden groves past braying donkeys.

We walked the two miles to the Nerja Caves, which had been rather pooh-poohed by some guidebooks as "Disney-fied". They proved to be a stunning natural phenomenon — a great underground cathedral. Only discovered in 1959 "just in time for the tourist boom", as one cynic observed, they stretch for three kilometres, though only one is presently open to the public.

Two Moorish villages — Frigiliana and Cometa — lie in the hills above Nerja. Frigiliana is such a jewel of bourgeois-decked streets that it seems unreal: we felt we had wandered onto an opera set. Resisting, though only just, the enticing smell of barbecued lamb wafting from the Garden Bar, we ate at El Mirador, an open-air cafe with a view across the village roofs, where the cheerful proprietor offered us an almond liqueur on the house.

Cometa has a fine square in front of its 16th-century baroque church and covered market which sold rabbit, fish and gleaming fruit. The church had electric votive candles — the more money you put in, the more bulbs you illuminated — and the most lifelike representations of the Holy Family I have ever seen. They were Spanish carnival costumes.

At a cafe table in the square we glimpsed a group of English people who looked like denizens of the "Costa del Crime". The main man was archetypal east London, weighed down with gold



Frigiliana, with its flower-decked streets, is so pretty that it feels like an opera set

chains; he had cropped grey hair and spoke good Spanish; the group swapped jokes about "keeping things well locked up", drank beer from the bottle and, when we returned from our walk, had progressed noisily to G&Ts.

Our most ambitious trip was to the Sierra Nevada, the mountains that run between the coast and Granada (we chickened out of the queuing we heard was inevitable when visiting the Alhambra). Stopping first at the spa town of Lanjaron, we walked into the

hills. A false start took us up a river bed, from which we only escaped by climbing a creaky iron ladder up an abandoned dam. My stock as an expedition leader never recovered.

Above Orgiva, twisting roads lead to three villages in the High Alpujarras: the top one, Capileira, is at 4,000 feet. Snowy peaks reached up to a deep blue sky, scarlet pimientos hung to dry outside the whitewashed cottages. The Moorish influence is strong. Roofs of chestnut beams are overlaid with canes and flat

stones, onto which grey mica is spread. The technique is Berber and is also found in the Rif mountains in Morocco.

During our stay, Nerja celebrated a four-day fair. Traffic was banned, and the chainsaw buzz of mopeds gave way to the explosion of rockets. Gigantic fairground machines, which seemed to rocket riders to the stars, were set up, and music played that must have been audible in north Africa. The women wore traditional dress, and there were daily parades. Our hotel room bal-

cony came into its own. Rioja in hand, we watched the pageant unfold beneath us. Spain fulfilled the promise of the brochures. The sun shone every day, and the temperature was 75F. Our walks and daily couple of hours on Burriana beach gave us healthy tans. The trip was the cure we needed and it banished our deep-rooted prejudice against southern Spain.

I am determined to return before I meet my maker.

ROBERT CHESSEHYRE

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WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 27

LASTAGE
 (a) A toll payable by traders attending fairs and markets. From the medieval Latin *lastagium*. The word also means the ballast of a ship, a payment to load a ship, an impost levied on the catch of herrings and finally it is a word for rubbish.

MEDIAMNE
 (c) An island in the middle of a river. Dogdilly from the Latin, *medius*, middle and *amnis*, river. "Diverse Armeletes breaking out of the two streames and making Mediannes."

MOSCHIFEROUS
 (c) Bearing or producing musk. From the medieval Latin, *mosch-us*. Hence come the moschiferous glands of the musk deer.

COLLOP
 (a) A dish made of beaten meat, a steak. The word can also mean an egg fried on bacon afterwards called collops and eggs. "I have no salt Bacon. Ne no Cokeneyes, bi Crist Colopus to maken ... bacon and colloppes."

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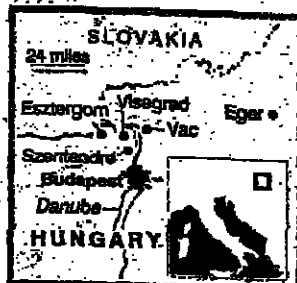
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Hungary: The contrary pleasures of Budapest and exploring the ancient cities of the Danube by boat

You say goodbye and I say hello



Think backwards, and you'll advance in Budapest. Start with the language, which looks and sounds nothing like any you ever learnt. In Hungarian, hello means goodbye. Whereas "szia" is pronounced "see-ya" and means — well, you get the idea.

When you discover the Magyar method of arranging names surname first, and the penchant for writing the sender's address at the bottom left of a sheet of paper, then you will have begun to understand some of the contrary pleasures of a trip to Budapest.

Perhaps this feeling you get of being somewhere between the familiar and the foreign has to do with the city's location at the edge of western Europe. Csepel Island in the middle of the Danube, just south of Budapest proper, has been pinpointed as the exact geographical centre of Europe. Like Greenwich and its hemispheres, Budapest straddles the two halves of the continent.

The spires and turrets of Castle Hill in Buda on the Danube's bank look east towards the Great Plains, while much flatter Pest faces the hilly west, where the foothills of the Alps begin. The Danube, Europe's mightiest river, divides the two cities. Once quite separate settlements, they maintain their distinct characters, despite the eight bridges which now join them. Buda-pest is the united city, which helpfully for the visitor is divided up again, this time into 23 districts or *kerulet*.

The Var or Castle Hill — is a great place to orientate yourself with magnificent views over one of the world's great cityscapes and its majestic waterway. Not much in Buda — or Pest — is very old, and that goes for its castle too, which owes its severe lines to the Hapsburgs, though much of it failed to survive even the 19th century once the Red Army had finished.

Your tour of over-the-top architectural styles should also take in the riotous neo-Gothic of the Matyas Church, and the ridiculous wedding cake folly that is the Fisher's man's Bastion. The atmosphere, however, is harmony itself. Stroll the castle ramparts in the early evening in the company of promenading Budapesters and their dogs, and enjoy the tranquillity.

Buda's other lofty viewpoint is Gellert Hill, crowned by a Hapsburg fort, the Citadella, and the Liberation monument, visible right across the city. The views here are stupendous too. Down at the base of the hill is the Gellert Hotel. Its turn-of-the-century facade is worth seeing but what you really come here for is the spa baths. Thermal pools lead off the beautiful Art Nouveau main chamber, where you can swim under a domed roof surrounded by Ionic columns.



The Gellert statue overlooking the Danube. Gellert Hill offers spectacular views and is crowned by a Hapsburg fort, the Citadella and the Liberation monument, which is visible right across the city

In the summer the entry price of 600 forints (£3) includes admission to the outdoor pools and sun terraces.

After your swim, time for some refreshment. Like most modern European cities, Budapest is packed with restaurants and bars, serving cuisine of all varieties, giving the lie to the notion that eastern Europe is all dumplings and sauerkraut. With a good guide book, eating out can be fun and cheap. Even our vegetarian friends didn't go hungry.

Our favourite spots were Maxim Pizza, a backstreet joint packed with communist kitsch and such delights as Gulag Pizza and Pizza à la Anarchismo, and for a slightly more authentic experience, a wonderful old artists' club in Erzsébetváros District VII, the Jewish quarter.

And so to Pest. Flat yes,

without the green hills of its western neighbour, but cross the Danube and you are in the modern heart of the city. Here trams, buses, underground trains and trolley buses queue up to whisk you about for 50 forint (25p) a time, or grab a map and walk. Two more huge buildings of dubious architectural provenance strike you at once. The neo-Gothic Parliament building dominates the Pest bank of the Danube, and, though faintly reminiscent of Westminster, it has a style all its own.

We also visited Budapest's largest church, the Basilica of St Istvan — the tranquillity of its interior undisturbed by Madonna who had been refused permission to film inside the previous day. Its greatest attraction is the holy relic in a chapel at the back — the Hand of St Istvan. Its original owner

was the saintly 11th-century king of Hungary, revered by the nation to this day. Put 40 forints in the slot, and a casket lights up to reveal the holy fist inside. After St Istvan's death in 1038, the hand was carried off to Vienna via Transylvania and Dubrovnik, before it was rightfully returned to Budapest in 1774. The Nazis also pinched it for a while.

Another building to see in Pest is the Central Synagogue. Built in the last century for Budapest's once sizeable Jewish community, this is the second largest synagogue in the world after the one in New York. Not unlike Westminster Cathedral in style, it is being beautifully restored with the help of the Tony Curtis Foundation (his parents were Hungarian emigrés).

Although the Jewish population is more significant than in other eastern European cities, Imre Varga's beautiful weeping willow Holocaust memorial is a reminder of the fate that befell many here. When you tire of pounding the streets or strap-hanging on the tram, take a river trip, and get a barge's eye view of Buda and Pest from the Danube. In the summer, boat trips will take you north to the ancient

cities of the scenic Danube Bend. Szendrő, Visegrad and the ancient capital, Esztergom. Its castle was founded in the 10th century by Prince Geza, father of St Istvan, who entertained Barbarossa here.

But it is Esztergom's Basilica which is its main attraction. Claimed to be the fifth largest church in the world, it dominates the Hungarian bank of the Danube, and even more stunning river views can be had from the tower across to Slovakia on the north side. Esztergom makes an excellent day trip from Budapest.

Other distracting locations outside the capital include pretty Hungarian country towns such as Vac (45 minutes by train), and Eger, in the heart of one of Hungary's most important wine-growing areas (two hours by train). Forget Bull's Blood (Egri Bikavér) on which the region's fame chiefly rests. Hungarian white wines must be some of Europe's most underrated. Visit Eger's medieval castle and its cellars where you can sample such little-known delights as Egri Leányka, a delicious appley white wine which costs 40fts (20p) a glass. Aside from Eger, my favourite out-of-town location is the Rest Home for Retired Communist Statues in a southern

suburb of Budapest — the Sörbörzs. Here you find Lenin and other heroes of the former eastern bloc who used to stand proudly atop grand plinths. It's a bizarre but brilliant place. Try to resist the temptation to take silly photographs of your companions (we couldn't), and buy a tin containing the Last Breath of Communism as a kitsch souvenir. Back in Budapest for last-minute shopping, you

should visit the Nagy Vasarcsarnok or Great Market Hall in Pest, three floors packed to the ceiling with Hungarian produce — fresh paprika, crisp white embroidery, wine and wooden toys. CDs are good value too, and Bartok and Kodaly the most appropriate composers to take back if you can't hack the many gypsy violin combinations on offer. With its unbeatable setting, Budapest is one of the most

rewarding cities in Europe. Not as grand as Vienna, nor as beautiful as Prague, it nevertheless has a bustling character all its own. Both Buda and Pest are packed with landmarks, museums and interesting corners which beckon the visitor, with too little time to spare. I hope to return soon. Hello!

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BUDAPEST FACT FILE

- The author travelled to Budapest with New Millennium Holidays, 20 High Street, Solihull, West Midlands B91 3TB (0121-711 2232). A ten-day coach trip, including seven nights' B&B in Budapest, costs from £159-£204 in May-October.
- British Airways (0345 222111) flights to Budapest cost from £189 return (booked before the end of January). Lufthansa (0345 75747) flights to Budapest cost from £204 return.
- Where to stay: a double room at the Hotel Gellert (00 361 185 2200) costs from £96 per night. The Budapest Marriott Hotel (00 361 266 7000) has double rooms from £85 per night. Beke Radisson Hotel (00 361 132 3300) has double rooms from £110 per night.
- Reading: *A Hungarian Romance*, by Agnes Hankiss (Readers International, £6.99, ISBN 0 930 52382 2). *The Undeclared*, by George Horvath (Eland, £5.99, ISBN 0 907 87122 4). *Hungary*, by Dan Richardson & Charles Hebbert (Rough Guides, £8.99, ISBN 1 858 28123 7).
- Hungarian Tourist Information Service, 0891 171200. Tourist office in Budapest, 00 361 117 9800.

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Vietnam: Markets are the lifeblood of towns, teeming with the vibrant colours and sounds of peasant life

This little piggy just squealed

The pig squealed, once, twice, three times as the two men lifted its squirming pink body by its tied legs and stuffed it into a wicker basket attached to the carrier of a moped. Soon all three were phut-phutting off along the potholed road. Whether it liked it or not, this little porker was off to market.

In the Mekong Delta, everything that can be eaten is. The region is Vietnam's ricebowl, fruitbasket and butcher, and every creature and plant that can be grown in the flat, vivid-green miles of paddies, deltas and ponds is trussed up and transported by bike, moped, cyclo, bus, boat or foot on thronging dirt roads to the nearest town, where it will be picked up, haggled over and eventually stuffed into a plastic bag and taken home for dinner.

Markets are the lifeblood of every Vietnamese town and, apart from the occasional Buddhist or Co Dai temple, church or mosque, they are the main source of entertainment for visitors. It is here that one encounters the everyday Vietnam: where peasant life is shrieked in every colour and sound.

The market at Vinh Long was my first. At 7am on the riverfront, amid the spluttering of boats moored alongside wooden, thatched river-houses, the day is exploding in a mix of garish colours, diesel fumes, animal squeals and roiling fish bones. Tiny, lean peasants in trouser suits and bamboo hats noisily unload produce, exchange dirty wads of dong, and stream into the covered market area.

The pineapple boat pulls up, piled two-men high with fruit. Buyers stream forward, shouting, gesticulating, bargaining; pushing large sacks forward for their produce to be loaded into. Street children pull on arms, begging buyers to buy something from one of their dirty little boxes: chewing gum, sticky breadsticks covered in sesame seeds, banana chips wrapped in grubby plastic, cashew nuts in banknote bags.



Women yell to each other across the mayhem. Vendors with poles over their shoulders bearing baskets of drinks, bowls of soup and noodles, give their high-pitched cry. There is only one escape from the heat, the jostling: to the indoor market.

Under cover, in the cooler but cloyingly meat-sweet air, the business of the day is under way. Exposed by the filtered streams of light pouring through the canvas and patchy thatch, an area about 200sq ft comes into view, sectioned off into areas of produce. To the left is bucket row; beside it teapot alley; then sandal street, biscuit lane, china town. Stalls are ordered and stacked high, the produce fanned, wiped, trimmed, polished. "Madam, madam," is the cry. "Very pretty. Very nice. Where you from?"

Food is central to the market: row upon row of salted, dried fish — stained red, curried, saffron'd — with stinky fins, tails and scales. Tables are lined with designer-white ducks: beaks open, gasping for air, yellow legs bound with raffia.

Off to the right our piggie and its pals are snuffling through discarded vegetable matter. A table above them sports a single pig's head, and women stand by, staring longingly, counting money.

At the poultry stall dozens of women argue over prices, picking up mangy cockerels by the feet,



Local markets, with their noisy haggling, are the main source of entertainment for visitors, apart from the occasional Buddhist or Co Dai temple, church or mosque

ruffling through their feathers, prodding and checking for unwanted insect life, then plunging the purchases head-first into large checked woven-plastic shopping bags. Baby ducklings huddling by the hundreds in wide shallow wicker baskets cower, evading the sun as the sellers run their hands through their masses, feeling for fatalities, and ticks.

I wander aimlessly, eyes scouring the stalls as new colours flash by: as children run up, laughing and squealing, pulling hairs on my arms (very few Vietnamese have visible body hair). Then I head for the streets and an iced-coffee as the market odour penetrates my clothes, nostrils and brain.

On a rickety metal chair beneath a street café umbrella, I survey my purchases with satisfaction: one pair of wooden-soled flip-flops (£3),

packet of cashew nuts (50p), bag of dried banana chips (30p), one steamboat (a tin saucepan for cooking fish soup with under-pan space for hot coals, £2.50), a newspaper extolling the virtues of American investment (30p), a clay plantholder painted with the ducks I had just witnessed going from bike to bag to pot (£2).

Then it is off into another market: the cyclo waits while I perform my final haggling act, before a lean-limbed cyclist helps me up into his magical machine and whizzes me back to the western pleasures of a room of my own. And there I sit, reflecting on a good morning's shopping, without the shouts of a Vietnamese market.

LISA GRAINGER

● The author was a guest of the Imaginative Traveller.

■ The Imaginative Traveller, 14 Barley Mow Passage, Chiswick, London W4 4PH (0181-742 8612; brochures, 0541 551163) offers a seven-day tour of the Mekong Delta for £280 including all internal transport (except cycle hire), basic hotels with bathroom, and English-speaking guide. Food: about £40.

■ Flights from Heathrow to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) by Thai Airways (0171-499 9113) cost from £555 return.

■ Tours start in Ho Chi Minh City; recommended sites include the War Crimes Museum (formerly known as the Museum of American War Crimes); Reunification Palace, on which the North

VIETNAM FACT FILE

Vietnamese raised their flag in April 1975; the French-built Art Museum, which houses works from revolutionary Impressionist-style pieces and the two main markets, Ben Thanh and Binh Tay. From Ho Chi Minh City, minibus tours of the delta can take in the Cu Chi tunnels, the market town of Vinh Long, a river trip to an orchid farm and fish factory, a few days exploring the temples and markets of the fishing towns of Rach Gia and Hon Chong, and a trip inland to Chau Doc, about 45 miles from the Cambodian border. The

final stop, before heading back to Ho Chi Minh City, is the seaside resort of Vung Tau, with its huge fleet of fishing boats, reasonably clean beaches and seafood.

■ Visas can be arranged by The Imaginative Traveller.

■ Malaria tablets are essential: see your GP.

■ Reading: *The Quiet American*, by Graham Greene (Penguin, £5.99, ISBN 0 14018 500 3); *A Bright Shining Lie*, by Neil Sheehan (Pan, £10, ISBN 0 330 31304 5); *River of Time*, by Jon Swain (Mandarin, £6.99, ISBN 0 749 32020 6); *Vietnam* (Rough Guides, £9.99, ISBN 1 858 28191 1).

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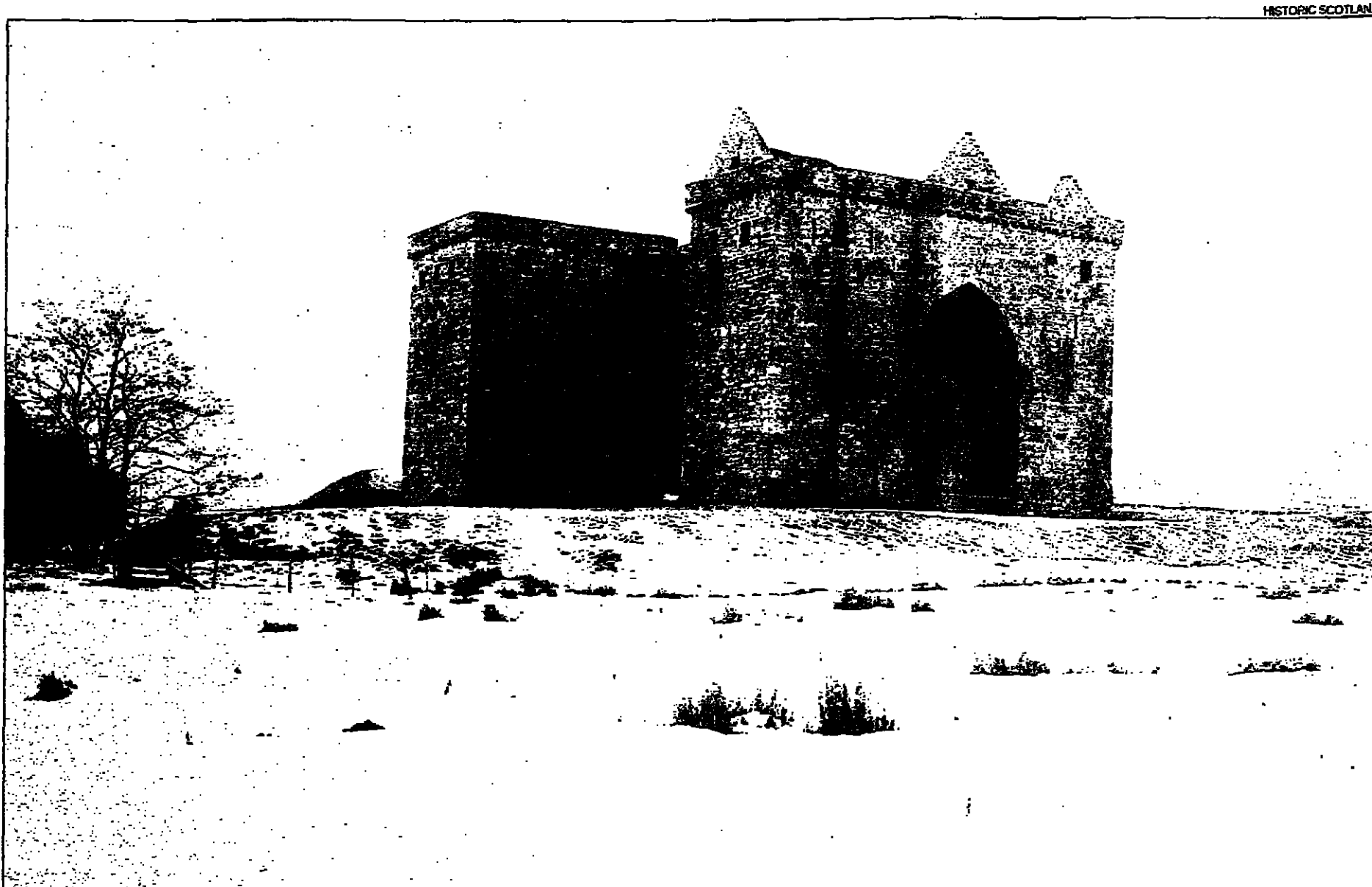
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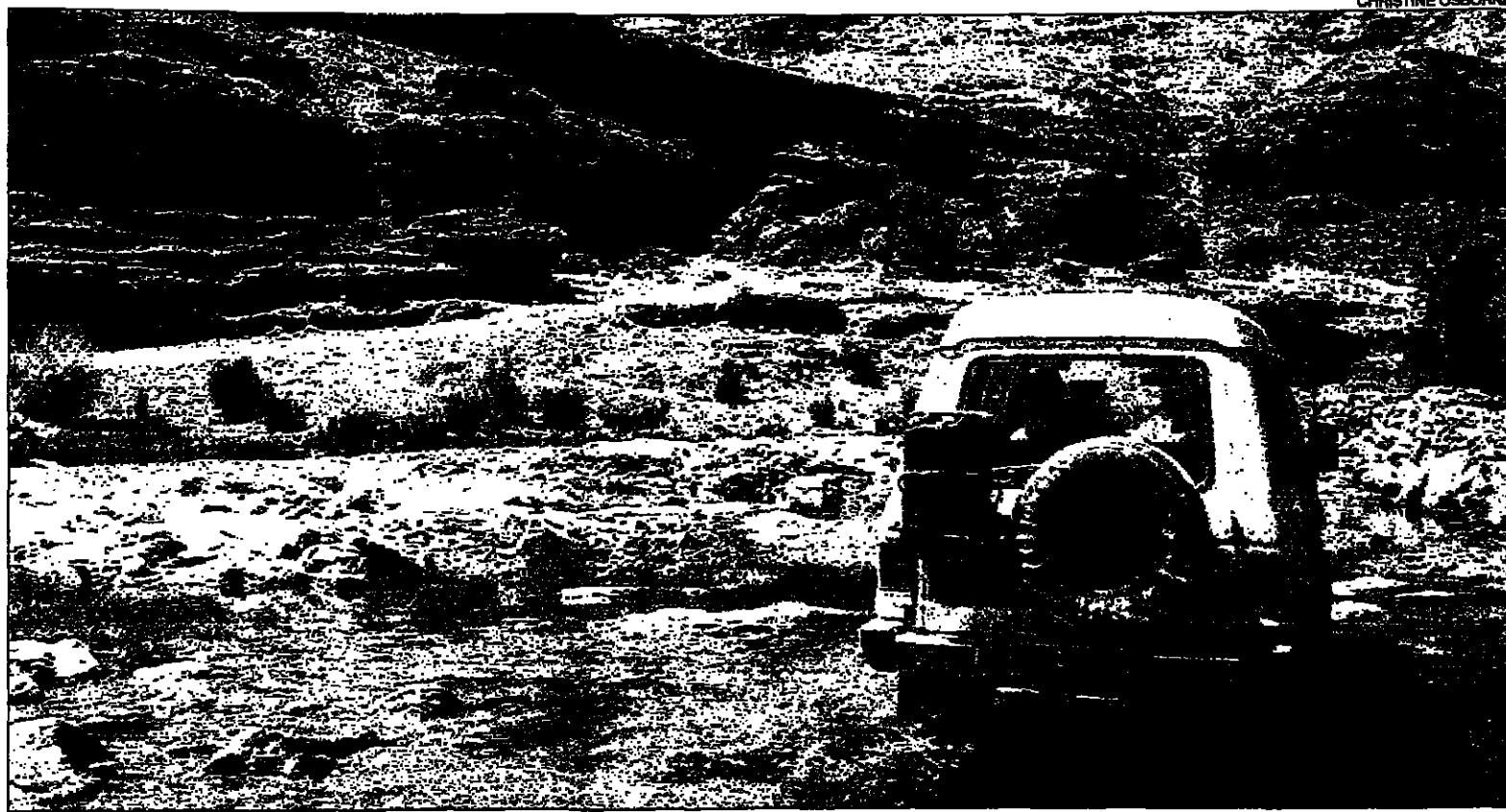
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Wadi Surwayh, in the eastern Hajar mountains, is included in a nine-day Oman safari with Jasmin Tours which costs from £1,072

Holidays at the touch of a button

Last July, my husband, two sons and I soaked up a fortnight of de-luxe pampering in Kenya's swiftest seaside hotel. What made it possible was that we bought the holiday half-price off the TV using Teletext.

Like many families who dream of the perfect holiday, each year our aspirations far outstrip our financial options. The solution, I suggested, was to buy a bargain late booking. Despite a near rebellion from my conservative family, I pressed on.

The first hurdle was to discover how to use Teletext — I barely knew how to turn on the TV. Most good TVs can receive Teletext, although most people do not use it. In fact, it is easy. Simply take the hand set and press the number for the TV channel (often number 3), then press the button marked "text" and finally punch in the page number 200.

The world of cheap holidays is now at your fingertips. But beware: the pages turn automatically so it is essential to locate your "hold" button in order to drool over the possibilities of two weeks at the Hawaii Beach, Cyprus, for £549 or blowing £1,499 at the four-star Le Sport in St Lucia. As to the jargon, HB means half board, SC means self-catering and All Incl can mean all meals, water sports, trips out and even a starter account at the pool bar.

My husband saw only hotels which are still a plot of land and an architect's drawing. Clearly, concern is common. "Scheduled flights" or British Airways flights are often mentioned, many flights are daytime, and departures are from Manchester as well as the London airports. As to accommodation, while the cheapest holidays of all may promise 14 nights in an unnamed four-star apartment in Tenerife for £189, most name the hotel.

At the bottom of the screen, headlines in different colours lead to specialist topics, reached by pressing coloured buttons on the hand set. We pressed the red button to reach the "more tropical" pages.

As the pages drifted by we discovered that our geography was hopelessly limited. An atlas was essential. So, too, was a basic knowledge of the world's weather patterns — the Maldives and Thailand would be cheap in July because they were sunk beneath the monsoon. Barbados, Jamaica and other Caribbean islands were dodgy too, while Kenya would have just

emerged from the rains. Cheap prices were not just weather-related. Some places had governments which had collapsed, civil war was imminent and no one in their right mind would go there on holiday. Others, I suspected, were giant slabs of concrete on isolated coasts with no trees, villages or locals for miles.

How was I to avoid a disastrous holiday? Perhaps brochures would tell us more about our potential destinations. At my local travel agent, Ideal Holidays, Philip Jarvis was not encouraging. "You'll get what you pay for," Never

the hotels. They also revealed the true cost of the holidays. Working on the theory that the saving was almost as important as how much we spent, we agreed to search Teletext for a deluxe exotic holiday since it would offer the highest discount.

Back we went to the screen with our brochures. Mexico, Cyprus and the Red Sea went out on grounds of bad hotel aesthetics. Kenya moved to first place with a choice of three five-star coast hotels at knockdown prices.

An assortment of informed friends delighted in telling me it was cheap because we would be knifed, shot or have everything stolen.

For a saner approach, I telephoned Primrose Stobbs at Abercrombie & Kent Travel, specialists in Kenya travel. She immediately told me which hotel would be best for us and asked me how much I was paying.

When I said "£730 for two weeks, half board, water sports included, Caledonian Airways direct flight to Mombasa, one son half price", she replied: "Go for it. We can't match that." And so we did, fulfilling our highest aspirations at the sumptuous Indian Ocean Beach Club just south of Mombasa.

And cruising through Teletext this week, as the snow fell on London, I noticed sunny Lanzarote for £99 for a week.

LOUISE NICHOLSON

● The author booked her holiday with Teletext this week, as the snow fell on London. I noticed sunny Lanzarote for £99 for a week.

'Friends said it was only cheap because we would be knifed, shot or robbed'

mind, I replied, as I helped myself to half a dozen brochures. He weakened at my resolve, advising me to book no later than four weeks before departure.

He then rose to the Teletext challenge and offered competition: a discounted villa in Greece from Tapestry Holidays and an utterly dreamworthy holiday in Mauritius with Beachcombers which offered a saving of £1,000 per person — tempting if you could afford the £2,000 per person in the first place. The brochures provided pictures and plenty of information on

JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

Family favourites

AMONG the companies rated best for customer satisfaction for 1996 are Simply Travel, VFB Holidays, Sunvil, the Travel Club of Uppminster and Eurocamp. All are members of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO) and among the 150 companies listed in its Directory of Real Holidays. All are fully bonded yet, they say, many of their holidays are either unavailable or poorly displayed by mainstream travel agents.

These operators, often family-run, claim to lead the way in quality, flexibility and knowledge of their destinations, the range they offer varying from beach and cultural holidays to sports and wildlife watching, from marathon running in Tunisia to frozen river trekking in the Himalayas. One firm managed to guide a 60-year-old woman up Everest.

As a pressure group, AITO has forced a review of the cosy travel agent/tour operator connection by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and members are quick to point out that Inspirations and Airtravels, two of the country's largest operators — not AITO members — fared worst in the Holiday Which? polls.

The Directory of Real Holidays '97 is available free from AITO on 0181-607 9080.

Oh my, Oman

WINTER sunshine breaks with a touch of adventure are offered by Jasmin Tours (01628 531121) from January 25. The nine-day off-the-beaten-track Oman safaris, travelling by 4x4 vehicles, include visits to Muscat and the fishing village of Qitrat, Wadi Surwayh in the eastern Hajar mountains and camping at Tiwi Beach. Prices start from £1,072, with flights, accommodation and most meals.

Going basic

HOLIDAYS to the republic of Georgia have been introduced by Bristol-based Regent Travel (0117-921 1711). The newly independent country on the

centuries-old trading route between Asia and Europe, has a rich diversity of architecture and cultures to tempt travellers prepared to put up with basic facilities and occasional delays, but looking for something different.

On a 10-day tour starting in Tbilisi, the capital, there are visits to the wine-growing area of Kakheti and the 6th-century cave monastery complex of David Gareghna; a trip on the Military Highway, which cuts a path through the Caucasus Mountains to Russia; Gori, the birthplace of Josef Stalin, and the fortress of Khertvisi.



Stalin's statue in Gori, Georgia, his birthplace

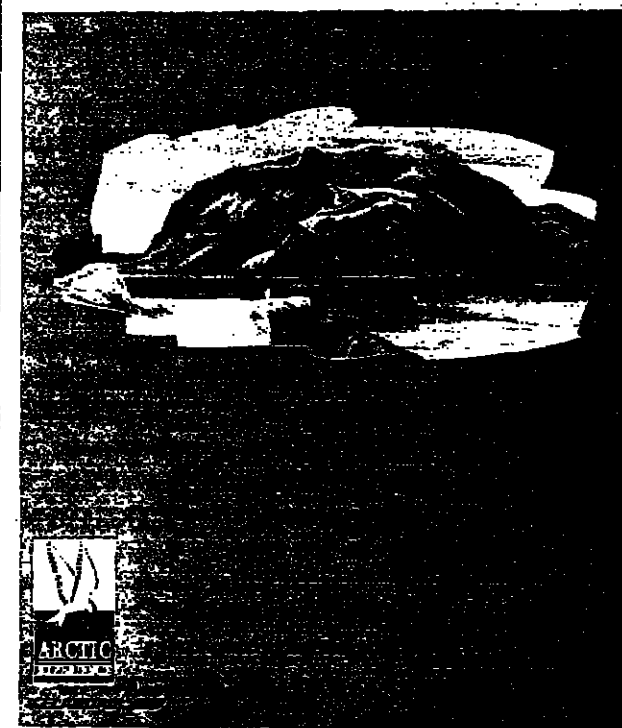
believed to have been visited by Alexander the Great. The tour costs £1,625 for flights and full board. A five-night break to the capital, including a trip to Mtskheta, the old capital, costs £699, half board.

Footsteps

THREE NEW historic walking trails are included in the Summer Inn-Active programme by Inntravel (01653 628811) and feature the quieter regions of Europe with strong local cultures. "In the Footsteps of the Smugglers" follows a mountain route weaving in and out of Spain between Cerdagne and Canigou, the week's tour costing £765. "In the Footsteps of the Viking Kings" (£898) travels the Viking road from Grindaflet to Aurlandsfjord in Norway. "In Whymper's Footsteps" (£889) follows the route Edward Whymper took from

Gap year

OPPORTUNITIES for work and travel in Ghana, South Africa and New Zealand are available from Bunac (0171-251 3472), the non-profit making organisation that arranges jobs and exchange visits, mainly to North America and Australia for students and those taking a gap-year break before university. Camp counselling and kitchen work at children's summer camps are the main tasks.



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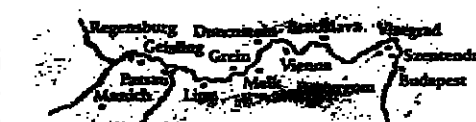
There are the timeless cities of Vienna and Budapest, Melk's Benedictine Abbey, a supreme example of Baroque architecture, and natural splendours such as the "Danube Bend", Bohemian woods and Little Carpathian Mountains.

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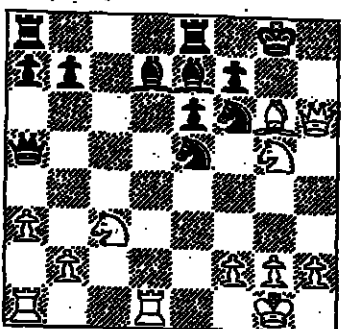
CHES

by Raymond Keene

HERE ARE the answers to the Christmas quiz, which appeared on December 21. I set four puzzles of varying difficulty.

Gipsies-Pushkinit
Berlin 1995
White to play

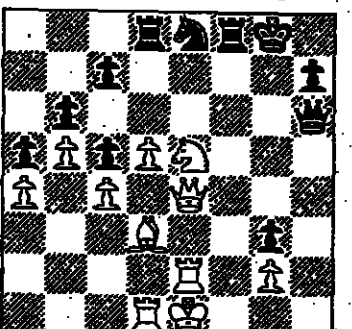
White has sacrificed a piece in order to cluster his attacking forces around the black king. The obvious try is 1 Bh7+, but after 1... Kh8, can White make progress, or does White have something stronger in the initial position?



Answer: White's best course is 1 Bd7+ Nxd7 2 Qg6+, and mate in one follows.

Gonzalez-Bravo
Havana 1995
Black to play

A pawn which has marched close to the enemy king can be extremely dangerous. How did Black exploit the presence of his pawn on g5?

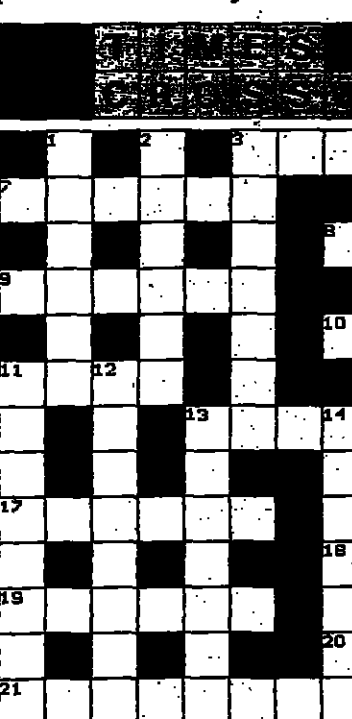


Answer: 1... Rf1+ 2 Kxf1 Qh1 mate. Kaczkowski-Szuhaneck, Pafie 1995. Black to play. White is not only a piece up, but seems better developed and better centralised. Is this the case?

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
White to play. This position is from the game Moran - Pupo, Matanzas 1995. White has sacrificed a rook to invade the black kingside. How does he now conclude with a subtle manoeuvre?

Send your answer on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.



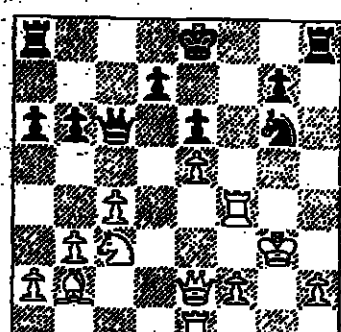
No 988

- ACROSS**
- Exercise's weight (8)
 - Join — French trapezoid (6)
 - Arrive (4); hand-made egg (4-2)
 - Secluded or dangerous place (6)
 - With sharp, uneven edges (6)
 - Cannabis plant (4)
 - First appearance (5)
 - Refuse to obey (4)
 - Rage; to moderate (6)
 - Empty inside (6)
 - A kept man; paid escort (6)
 - Bunthorne's bride (G&S); card game (8)

- DOWN**
- She demanded head of Bag (4)
 - Take for ransom (6)
 - Dispossession (7)
 - In good spirits; able to float (7)
 - Speak in high praise of (8)
 - Engraved on stone; dignified (style) (8)
 - Straitened circumstances (8)
 - Speaking only one tongue (8)
 - Speak regretfully of (7)
 - Take attention from (7)
 - Harm; loss (6)
 - With little strength (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 987
ACROSS: 1 High 3 Tactum 9 Spice 10 Clouds 11 Example 12 Mark 14 Radian 16 Aspire 18 Sell 19 Prickle 22 Partner 23 Alone 24 Entrance 25 Edit
DOWN: 1 Hostess 2 Grim and bear it 4 Archer 5 Isthmus 6 Under Milk Wood 7 Nile 8 Temp 13 Reverent 15 Atlanta 17 Spirit 20 Iran 21 Ape

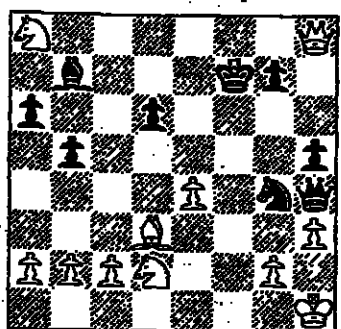
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Answer: Black has a devastating coup: 1... Rh3+ 2 Kxh3 Nxd4+ forking king and queen. If White meets 1... Rh3+ with 2 Kg4 then 2... Qg2 is mate.

Yanes-Foye Cuba 1995
Black to play

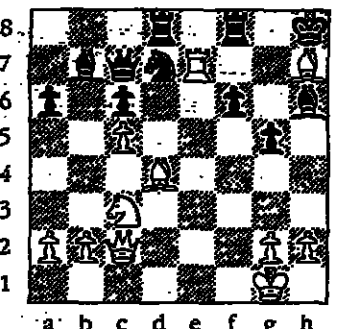
A piece down, it seems unlikely that Black can force perpetual check, let alone win. Is there a surprise?



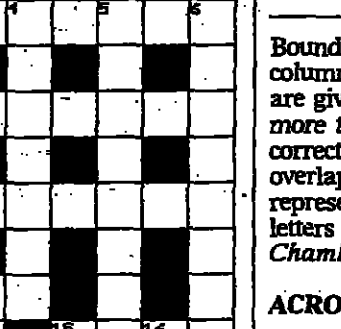
Answer: Black's winning move is surprising because it strikes at such a well defended point. Black wins with 1... Bxe4 with the threat of... Qxh3+. Whether White captures on e4 with knight or bishop on move 2, Black's... Qe4 will be deadly.

The winner is T. Welch of Camberley, who will soon receive his jereboam of Moët & Chandon champagne.

Chess for Charity
On Saturday March 22, I will be taking on all-comers in a simultaneous display at St George's Hospital, Tooting, London SW17. This is to raise funds for the £1 million Hold My Hand appeal for children's intensive care. Details from Lucy De Ville, Appeal Office, St George's Hospital (0181-725 5096).



Last week's solution: 1 Rxd4 (1... exd4 2 Qxh7+ mating). Last week's winner: J. Nicholas, Hexham, Northumberland.



Send your answer on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

- ACROSS**
- Lewis returning for work, to learn about one new net a relative of old Bird cut down (5,5,3)
 - Active fellow backing the chief scout, as before, runs from side to side (3,5)
 - Delay about late cut — larger-than-life fellow run out, I see (6,6)
 - Scene of a lapse? Need to reform language — slip drops one — men in a line turn to snarl (4,4,4)
 - A crawler back in huge trouble. Viewers, early English, admit bating a month in Test is ridiculous (4,4,5)
 - Wood, learner in a Test, after length — I'm bowled a flipper — time to appeal for enterprise? (5,4,4)
 - Important dates in summer — a shady tree — one getting runs affected — target about one Catching good, batting good, previous estimate — man will bag a couple of runs (6,6)
 - Chapter in one short story of stress in the Oval becoming a habit? (5,3)
 - Endless initiative in field — Lamb's poor alien soul about to catch old Australian (3,5,5)

- DOWN**
- She demanded head of Bag (4)
 - Take for ransom (6)
 - Dispossession (7)
 - In good spirits; able to float (7)
 - Speak in high praise of (8)
 - Engraved on stone; dignified (style) (8)
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PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 34, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, January 15.



"I telephoned the Loch Ness police and they said to hold on"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by N. Richards of Redditch, Hereford and Worcester

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LASTAGE
a. A toll
b. Old age
c. Durability

MEDIAMNE
a. A half
b. Ancient coinage
c. An island in the middle of a river

MOSCHIFEROUS
a. Deceitful
b. Bitter tasting
c. Producing musk

COLLOP
a. A meat dish
b. A species of grass
c. A blunder

Answers on page 18

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

IN QUESTION 2 of the Christmas Bridge Quiz you were shown only the North-South cards of the hand below. You were asked to play 7NT on a spade lead, East contributing the queen.

In the complete deal, I have set up the East-West cards to demonstrate where best play gains.

♠542	♥A643	♦none	♣AKQ1098
♠10887	♥10987	♦KJ52	♣J732
♠842	♥5	♦53	♣J732
♠5	♥A	♦AKQJ1097	♣64

including the ace, and one club (5 points). You can afford that, because if the clubs run you won't need the ace of hearts. The play gains when the lay-out is as above (5 points).

After all the diamonds have gone this is the position: East still to play.

♠A	♥K	♦AKQ109	♣J732
♠J3	♥Q	♦5	♣64

Contract: 7NT by South
Lead: ten of spades

With North the dealer a possible bidding sequence to 7NT is:

W	N	E	S
Pass	1C	Pass	2D
Pass	4C	Pass	4NT
Pass	5H	Pass	7NT

The key bid is North's Four Clubs. This unnecessary jump, when the partnership is in a game-forcing situation, conventionally shows a solid suit.

Strictly speaking, he should have the jack instead of one of his lower cards. Over Four Clubs South thinks there are plenty of tricks, so he checks up on aces via 4NT.

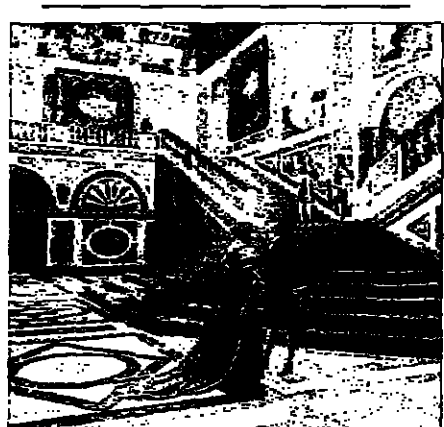
Obviously your main hope in 7NT is that the clubs will run, but it costs nothing to play off all the diamonds first. You discard two spades from dummy, all the hearts

What can East discard? If he throws either king, South cashes his newly-created winner and East is in trouble again. It is an example of a repeating squeeze. It would also have worked if East had the major-suit kings and four or more clubs.

Information on Macallan Papers (January 22-24) on 0181-878 5844.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



Enjoy the Court of Louis XIV on a superb virtual reality tour in Versailles 1685

while other problems call for you to lower a rescue harness or use a reargas gun.

Despite options to run graphics at different resolutions, so accommodating lessor computers, SimCopter remains a fairly grainy affair lacking much detail. Still, the title is carried off by the atmospheric radio and overall ingenuity. In addition to the 30 city scenarios of the title, you can also import and police your own saved Sim City 2000 creations. For Sim City fans who feel they have now exhausted all possibilities, SimCopter is perfect for renewing interest and vastly extending playability.

SimCopter remains a fairly erratic affair. Much of the time the problems on the ground come thick and fast but there are moments when there's too little to do for too long and hovering around with nowhere to go can get boring.

In contrast, there is something of a gilded white-knuckle ride to be had exploring the Court of Louis XIV and 17th-century Paris in Cryo Interactive's Versailles 1685. On dual format PC and MAC CD-

Rom, this is a coupling of a superb virtual reality tour of the Palace of Versailles with a routine adventure game.

As a tour of the palace it works best. Over 200 paintings hanging on the walls can be enlarged for better viewing — albeit with rather poor definition — but there is a great sense of glamour to the visit. You can explore the elegant state

rooms as well as the spiral staircases leading to more modest servants' quarters at a leisurely pace or race, very smoothly, hither and yon at breakneck speed, as if playing over-familiar scenes from Quake. Accompanying the tour is a score of delectable Baroque music.

In adventure game mode the aim is to interview 30 or so courtiers you find around the palace, unearthing cloak-and-dagger skulduggery. At odds with the richness of the palace graphics, the characters look and behave awkwardly — like Captain Scarlet rejects. The voice characterisations go some way to rectifying the ugliness of the characters but not far enough to make for hours of fun.

For that, look out for the next big title due this month in the "sim" stakes — Bullfrog's Theme Hospital. Referred to in some quarters as a "sick-em-up", you play hospital administrator and approve all the key decisions to make or break your corner of the NHS service. Early reports suggest the game overflows with plenty of sick spins and even new illnesses to combat.

Clearly Theme Hospital promises to be a more rounded and longer lasting sim sequel than SimCopter — but you don't need to be masterminding to work that out.

Talking of which, many of you thought that the Mastermind presenter Magnus Magnusson was born in Scotland. In fact he hails from Iceland, the correct answer to our Cyberspace Twenty-Eight competition. Thank you to all who entered, our 12 winners of the BBC's Mastermind CD-Rom are: Jean Blagden of Rotherham, Rebecca Caines of Doncaster, Edward Christopher of Switserland, Mary Catterell of Carlisle, Claire Dart of St Leonards on Sea, Janet Donbavand of Twickenham, Neil Gibson of Sunbury-on-Thames, Jean Grzesik of Sheffield, Andrew Hughes of Yelverton, Devon, Michael Moran of Penrith, Matthew Scott of Clifton, Notts, and David Taylor of Cambridge.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3392: Boundary by Apex

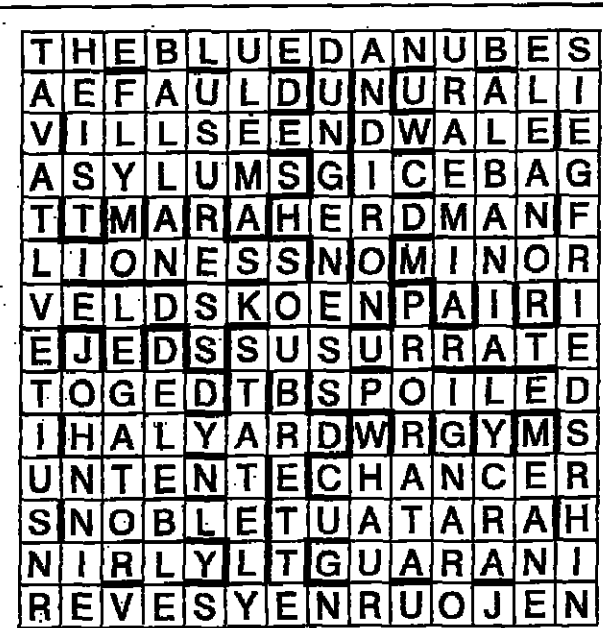
Boundary (clockwise) gives a normal clue to column 8 and sets the Theme for the puzzle. Clues are given to each row and to each column; where more than one word occurs, the clues are in the correct order and stand side by side without overlapping. The symbol in the bottom row represents a dash, not a hyphen. The 12 unchecked letters of Boundary give NEW TV COW FUND. Chambers (1993) is recommended.

ACROSS

- Lewis returning for work, to learn about one new net a relative of old Bird cut down (5,5,3)
- Active fellow backing the chief scout, as before, runs from side to side (3,5)
- Delay about late cut — larger-than-life fellow run out, I see (6,6)
- Scene of a lapse? Need to reform language — slip drops one — men in a line turn to snarl (4,4,4)
- A crawler back in huge trouble. Viewers, early English, admit bating a month in Test is ridiculous (4,4,5)
- Wood, learner in a Test, after length — I'm bowled a flipper — time to appeal for enterprise? (5,4,4)
- Important dates in summer — a shady tree — one getting runs affected — target about one Catching good, batting good, previous estimate — man will bag a couple of runs (6,6)
- Chapter in one short story of stress in the Oval becoming a habit? (5,3)
- Endless initiative in field — Lamb's poor alien soul about to catch old Australian (3,5,5)

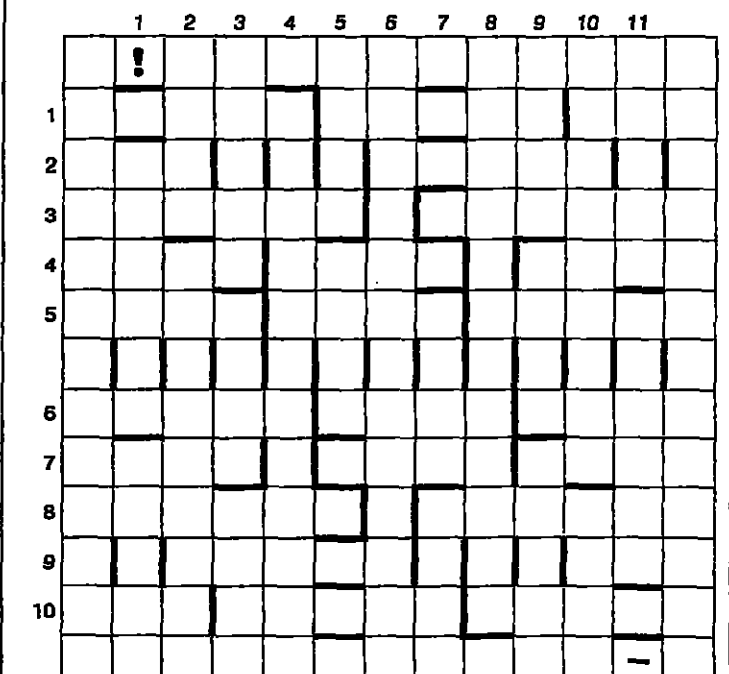
DOWN

- Man carrying club, to remain a pro once dominated over ring in wild west show (6,5)
- Pest to ring up opener in another county game in Wilts — he's crazy about No.1 (4,9)
- Caller getting up staff again — some guru sounding bugle — one finishing off formally with a bit of reveille? (5,4,4)
- The most original character in Tests? Sporting Len and Reg elect Bird (12)
- Deceived one bowled out! — worn piece of old earth has been turned up (4,4)
- Entertainment for those standing to consider — a topless girl-dancing around copper? (13)
- A girl Mike's met provides cold drink for a fan (4,4)
- Boundary (11 words)
- To spread note about mounting fiddle involving square — case a native combination ran to contest? (4,5,5)
- Long-legged youngster when run out has failed to dampen one going in to score (9,4)
- Films man working on one Australian — Cork again about to impress (5,6)



Solution to No 3389: Waterstone's by Richshaw
Quotation: THIS MUSIC CREEPT BY ME UPON THE WATERS (FERDINAND) from The Tempest. Perimeter musical pieces are all associated with rivers: The Blue Danube (Strauss); Siegfried's Rhine Journey (Wagner); Severn Suite (Elgar) and Vltava (Smetana). Across clue words after modification: 10 fault; 13 arrow; 15 harms; 16 more; 17 yr; 18 cold; 19 crew; 20 move; 22 pit; 23 sandal; 28 star; 29 bard; 30 wet; 33 earring; 36 one; 37 risk; 38 any; 39 disparat; 40 state; 41 in. Down clues versions: 2 HEXST; 3 BALLAB; 4 OLEMA; 5 LUNGENESS; 6 ANDIOWN; 7 RRAEMIA; 8 ELEANOS; 11 FLYGO; 12 USUREXS; 14 ALBANIS; 21 SOURETTE; 24 LEGATOK; 25 PRO WATA; 26 JOHNEIE; 27 DELIBLE; 28 SCATELY; 31 IGNARC; 32 LYDRA; 34 WHAIR; 35 MEARE.

The winner is C. Bickmore of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire. The five runners-up are: R. Hooper of London SW19; J. Mackintosh of West Wickham, Kent; R. Neakwith of Sandiham, Northamptonshire; D. Milna of Shropshire, Somerset; and M. Kerr of Bangor, Co Down.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3392
in association with Waterstone's

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3392, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, January 23.

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The winner of will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10

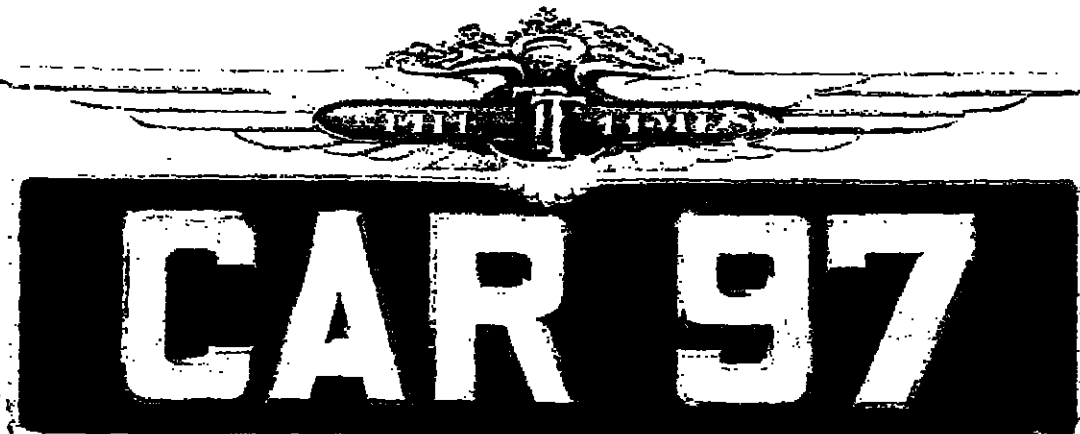
Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982 and now has a branch in virtually every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-print Booksearch, 01892 527200. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 448594. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's, call 0181-742 3800.

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By 4th February 1997



Lotus gives the Elise an electric shock

Page 3



Why the model champion is named 'Schuey'

Page 12



SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1997

The bubbles blow into Britain



Bubble-gum tycoon Bruce Weiner's immaculately restored collection of microcars resulted from a four-year collecting obsession. For a detailed key to the cars going for auction in London, see page three

Small is beautiful again

THE ARRIVAL of the Mini in 1959 sounded the death knell for the bubble car, writes Alan Copps. Ever-more stringent safety legislation put nails in the coffin of such vulnerable small vehicles.

But the engineering ingenuity devoted to fitting the human frame into ever-smaller shapes on wheels survives.

The current pace has been set by Ford with its Ka. But the technology of tiny transport will take a much more significant step forward when Mercedes-Benz enters



New Mercedes has a unique double floor

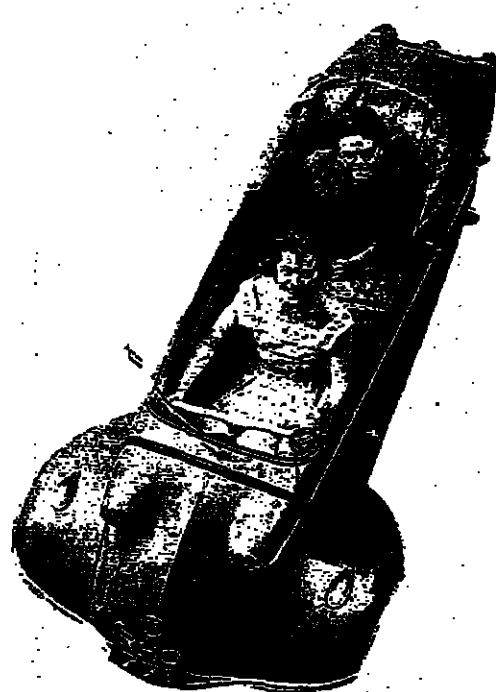
the small-car field for the first time later this year with its A-class.

This car, unlikely to arrive in Britain before 1998, is shorter than a Ka but boasts the cabin space of a Mercedes C-class. It features an engine tilted at 59 degrees and a unique double floor that enables it to pass crash test legislation.

Meanwhile engineers at Rover are working flat-out to perfect the replacement for the 38-year-old Mini.

With new car sales in Britain topping the two million mark last year for the first time since 1990, the small-car market was led by increasing demand for sophisticated five-door superminis. We've come a long way from the basic bubble of the post-war years.

A unique collection is up for sale, says Alan Copps



Messerschmitt: supercar of the bubble world

What would you do if you made a fortune selling bubble gum? Bruce Weiner took to collecting cars and rapidly became a specialist — in bubble cars, of course. In the space of four years, his interest developed from curiosity to near obsession. He criss-crossed the Atlantic from his home in Canada in search of rarities and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars restoring them. Some were revived from scrapyard relics to pristine condition.

"I used to buy sports cars. I was looking through magazine ads at a page headed M for MG and I saw this little picture of a Messerschmitt. I just couldn't believe it. I'd never seen anything like it. I had to have it.

"Once that was done I went and bought more in Germany, the UK, Sweden and in North America, where they were never seen on the roads but where there are a number of collectors. I was hooked. They just have such character and some of them are really engineering masterpieces. When you go to buy one of these you are

buying a stepchild in a piece of metal," says Bruce.

"Whenever someone sold one to me it was always a sad parting. People become so attached to them. But I couldn't resist the thrill of the chase. The rarest of them, like the Tigers, are as rare as the rarest Ferrari."

The result of his passion was a barn full of almost 50 bubble, or more correctly, microcars, believed to be the largest privately-owned collection in the world.

Now with mixed feelings he will be crossing the Atlantic in a few weeks' time to see 45 of his precious stepchildren sold by Christie's at auction in London. "I thought it was time to stop. By the time I finished I was employing three people full-time to look after the cars. If I'd gone on collecting I would have had to open a museum. I'm not in a position to do that," says Bruce.

But he can't quite let go. "I'm keeping two or three back. They are just such good conversation pieces and you can put them anywhere. I'm looking at one I've put in my office as we speak, it's a fine 1955

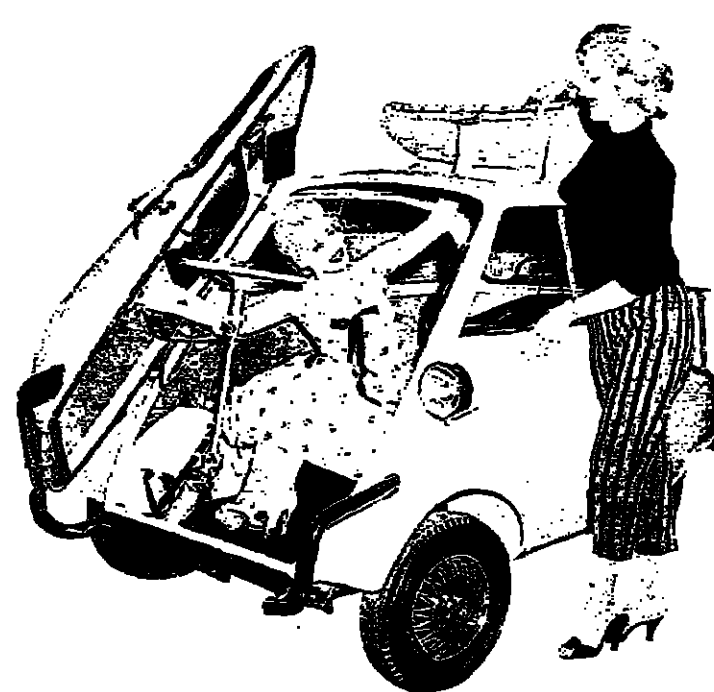
Messerschmitt KR 200," he says from his headquarters in Concord, Ontario.

When the cars come to auction on March 6 at Jack Barclay's showroom in Vauxhall, South London, they will provide an astonishing contrast to the usual occupants. Barclay's is the capital's leading Rolls-Royce and Bentley dealer. Malcolm Welford, Christie's motor car expert, who will sell the cars says: "This must be the largest collection of bubble cars to be sold. It's one of those sales which will provoke interest well beyond the usual circle of car collectors."

"These vehicles have a tremendous cult following in the design and fashion worlds. They say so much about the period when they were produced. I wouldn't be surprised if some of these cars sell in groups to motor or design museums."

The cars will be sold without reserve and although final estimates have yet to be agreed they are likely to be between £1,000 and £20,000, depending on age, condition and rarity. There is no official

Continued on Page 3



BMW Isetta encapsulates the classic Fifties bubble-car shape

*@!
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Why does Britain's infrastructure go to pieces when a snowflake falls? You can't even get your slush-filthy car cleaned unless you drive to Helsinki

Great unwashed get frozen out

Although the recent cold weather has been enough to make Chris Bonington think twice before going out for a packet of mints, the general mayhem brought about in Britain by a taste of the chilly stuff is one of life's more baffling phenomena. What is it about the British car wash, for example, that causes it to freeze solid at the sight of a Michael Fish weather warning?

I went out one recent chilly night determined to find out what colour my car would be if it wasn't filthy. Eight car washes and 35 miles later, I was none the wiser. But at least I had heard some interesting excuses for this most basic amenity's vulnerability to weather.

A man at the first one said that his car wash was indeed working, it just wasn't open. Eh? The trouble

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



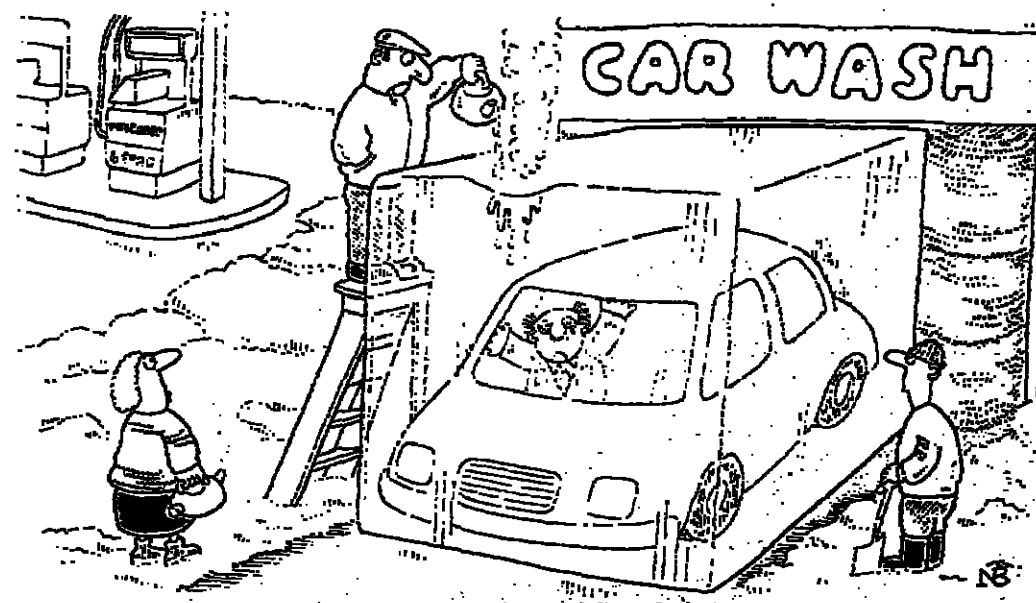
Peter Barnard

was, the water used in the wash ran away on to the forecourt. If it froze and someone fell over, he might be sued. Three car washes later, my hopes were raised. A huge sign with typography of a size to make *The Sun* proud announced: CAR WASH OPEN. I

spoke to a woman who was seated behind the sort of glass used when serial killers are allowed visitors.

"I'm sorry," she said. "I haven't been able to take the sign away because they lock me in at night." I asked her what would happen if her ill caught fire, but left without hearing the answer. The next garage but three had a jet-wash. Perhaps this would be working? One of those individuals whose acquaintances are all called Mate or Pal said: "You must be joking, Pal. Hasn't worked since Christmas. Try the one three sets of lights down on the left. Mate."

I did but it wasn't. The attendant said that it had been working. "Let's see now, Tuesday I think it was, no, might have been Monday, but it was on and off." People had been going away with half the car clean, all sorts of ructions,



game wasn't worth the candle, shut it down.

At car wash number eight, two people buying the sorts of essentials no self-respecting garage would be without — nylon stockings and a tin of soup — joined me in wondering what people in colder climes did about washing their cars. Surely, one of them

said, people in Finland aren't driving round in filthy cars for six months of the year?

So I rang up Finland. Specifically, the British Embassy in Helsinki, where a helpful young lady transferred me to Tony Falzon, a Brit who looks after the central heating at the embassy and in all the homes of the staff. First we had

a chat about the weather. On the night that my car went unwashed in a temperature of minus 4C, the temperature in Helsinki had fallen to minus 19C. But Tony could still get his car washed.

"For one thing," he said, "all the car washes are enclosed. They have automatic doors. But the main difference is that the water in

them is given an oil-based additive which stops it from freezing. What with the snow and the slush, I've never known a frozen-up car wash. People here wouldn't stand for it." I have not telephoned any British petrol companies to ask why we are supposed to stand for it because I am not interested in what they have to say. There may not be that many days when car washes are frozen but the point is that cars need to be especially visible in the sort of conditions that often cause them to be invisible. Salt, slush, snow and general muckiness in the air mean the car wash is more, not less, necessary at this time of the year.

Nor do I know anything about additives in water. What I do know is that Finland is a very cold country a lot of the time and Britain is a fairly cold country some of the time. But I'll be damned if I'll drive to Helsinki to wash the car.

CLOSING DATE for our competition to give the Ford Ka a nickname is Monday. Post a card today to Name That Ka, Car 97, *The Times*, 1, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winner gets a magnum of champagne.

New rules forcing learners to pass the theory test first have spread confusion and hit instructors, says Alan Capps



Low technology: driving schools have criticised the Driving Standards Authority's pencil-and-paper test. Computers would help pupils get results much quicker, they argue

Schools write off test changes

Changes in the driving test introduced on January 1 have left many learners confused, according to some driving schools.

Although the changes were flagged when the driving theory test was introduced on July 1 last year, the Driving Standards Agency, which administers tests, has been criticised for not giving them more publicity as they became effective.

One of the chief changes means that learners will now have to pass the driving theory test before they are able to book a practical test. Under interim arrangements that lasted from July until January 1, the two tests could be taken in any order.

The DSA says that was a purely administrative measure, because practical tests would otherwise have to have been halted while new drivers took theory tests. But the change to "theory first" has hit business hard at some schools devoted to providing intensive driving courses.

John O'Shea, who runs the Kinson Intensive Driving

School, near Canterbury in Kent, says: "The DSA just seems to have ignored the problems of schools like mine. I've gone from 14 cars down to two. A lot of my customers were expatriates who would do an intensive course and take their tests during a two-week holiday in Britain."

"Now they need a minimum of 17 days just to book and get the result of a theory test. To do the practical test, too, would require a month's holiday. Next week, for the first time in six years, I've got no pupils."

Mr O'Shea is also critical of the form that the theory test takes. "It's the technology of the last century. No technology at all, just paper and pencil. If they used a computer-based test a candidate would know immediately whether they had passed or failed and would know where they went wrong."

The British School of Motoring, Britain's largest, has also campaigned for a computer-based theory test.

A spokesman for the DSA said the next generation of theory tests, in three or perhaps five years' time, would be

technology-based. "But the test has to be universally acceptable. Most candidates may be in their teens or twenties, but we have to allow for those of 65 who may never have touched a computer keyboard before."

He said there was nothing to stop candidates booking and sitting a theory test before they started an intensive course. "We are meeting our targets on theory tests now. There is a maximum two-week waiting period and people get their results within seven to ten days."

In the first few months of the theory test, which has now been sat by more than 500,000 people, some candidates had to wait up to a month to get their results.

The pass mark was raised three months after introduction, from 26 out of 35 questions to 30 out of 35. Since then the pass rate has fallen from around 93 per cent of candidates to around 60 per cent.

The DSA spokesman said the "theory first" change had not been the subject of publicity because its advertising budget had been devoted to more fundamental changes in motorcycle tests, designed to put an end to the phenomenon of "permanent learner" motorcyclists. "It was important to let people know about that change because it affects people who are already on the road, rather than those taking tests after January 1," said the spokesman.

These changes mean that all motorcyclists must now complete the DSA's Compulsory Basic Training course which consists of essential handling skills of the public road and safety instruction, followed by a supervised ride on the road.

Since January 1 all L-plate moped and motorcycle riders must complete a CBT course before going on the road alone. Their CBT certificates expire after three years, so unless they complete a full motorcycle test within that period, they have to start all over again.

The DSA has written to 283,000 people registered as keepers of mopeds and motorcycles up to 12cc, the maximum allowed for learners, to warn them of the change. A new series of motorcycle categories for learners has also been introduced.

NEW RULES

- Written tests for car and motorcycle licences were introduced in July last year and must now be taken before the practical tests. Since January 1, other changes to driving tests include:
- For motorcycles there are two new categories — light motorcycle (A1) restricting riders to a 125cc machine, and standard motorcycle (A) limiting riders to medium-sized machines for two years.
- Learner motorcyclists are no longer allowed to ride a machine of any size if it has a sidecar attached.
- Basic training must be undertaken before taking a motorcycle test.
- New car licences will restrict drivers to vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes, a reduction from 7.5 tonnes, and vehicles with a maximum of eight passenger seats. They will not be valid for towing heavy trailers.



Volvo has high hopes of the new S40 touring car

ON YOUR MARQUE: Volvo unveiled its challenger for the 1997 British Touring Car Championship, at the Autosport International Show in Birmingham this week.

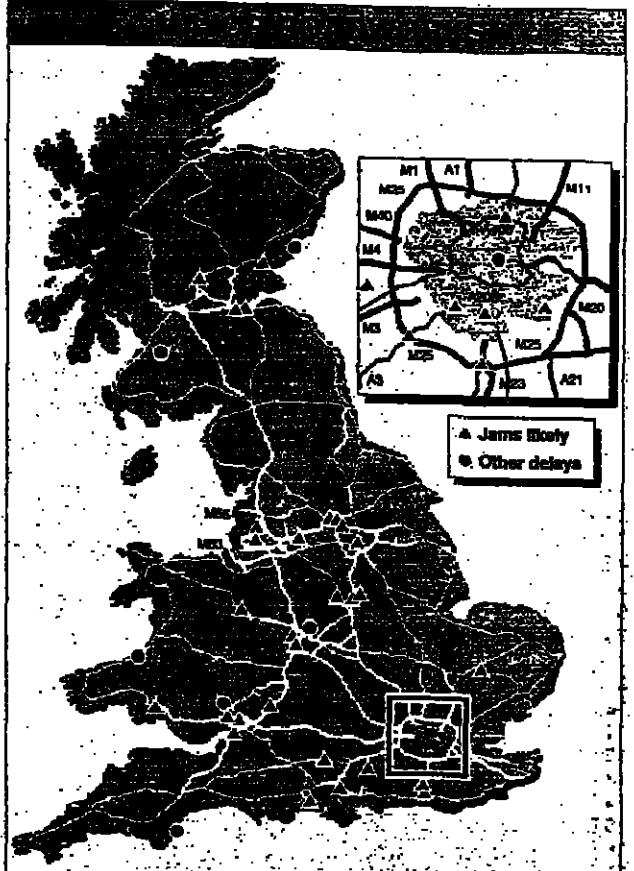
Volvo and its racing partner TWR are pinning high hopes on the newcomer, the S40, after their 850 saloon came third overall in the manufacturers' title last year, ahead of leading rivals Renault and Vauxhall. Drivers Rickard Rydell and Kelvin Burt were at Thursday's first public showing of the new race contender, which now begins a tough schedule in Europe and

Britain in preparation for the first BTCC meeting at Donington on March 31. Last year, Rydell took third overall position in the drivers' championship in the 850. Volvo has competed in the BTCC since returning to international motorsport in 1994. Tve Johannesson, president of the Volvo Car Corporation, says: "S40 racing marks the start of another new era."

Autosport International '97 is the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, until tomorrow. Tickets and information: 0121 767 4147.

ROADWORKS

- **LONDON**
A408 Upper Edmonton; temporary traffic lights on Angel Road (North Circular Road) over the Lea Valley Viaduct.
A3 Kingston; northbound lane closure on the Kingston Bypass between Shannon Corner (A298) and Coombe Lane Junction (A238). Heavy congestion.
A224 Saint Mary Cray; lane closure on the Sevenoaks Way.
A3212 (9pm-8am) Bridge Street and Victoria Embankment closed overnight at weekends, between Parliament Square and Westminster Bridge.
A232 Wallington; roadworks on Croydon Road, around the junction with Manor Road.
- **SOUTH EAST**
A330 Ascot; roadworks and temporary lights are in place.
A27 Brighton; overnight (10pm-6pm) work on the Brighton bypass between the Hangleton Junction and Ditchling Road Bridge.
A23 Patcham; lane closure on slip roads, with other local restrictions.
M27 between junction 8 and junction 10; roadworks with lane closures and contraflow at times.
A303 Andover between (A307) and (A343); bridge maintenance with lane closures and overnight closures.
M25 junctions 6-10; restatements and lane closures both ways.
A3 Hogs Back (A31); roadworks at the Stag Hill flyover.
- **SOUTH WEST**
A3022 New Road, Brixham. Water-main work.
A35 Barrack Road, Christchurch; Lane closed in both directions.
M5 junction 18; major roadworks with only one lane open at the roundabout junction with the A419. Long delays.
M5 junctions 17-20; contraflow with 50mph speed limit.
- **MIDLANDS AND EAST**
• **ANGLIA**
A3822 South Eastern Bypass (A554 under construction); roadworks.
A6 Lockington; contraflow from just north of the M1 junction 24 to Sawley Island (B6540) with no right turn into Donington Lane.
A14 Nottingham; roadworks and lane closures in both directions between the railway station and Broad Street.
A464 Houghton; temporary lights.
A14 between Bury St Edmunds and Kentford; contraflow westbound.
- **WALES**
A48 Eastern Avenue, Heath; narrow lanes eastbound near the University Hospital.
A462 Aberystwyth; Upper Aberystwyth Bridge on South Road closed.
Diversions via Panteg Road and the A487.
A470 north of Cefn Coed; temporary lights on Brecon Road.
M4, junction 23a to junction 24; contraflow.
M4 junctions 47-48; carriageway reduced to one lane in both directions.
A472 Pontypool; contraflow between Pontypool and the Heron Roundabout. Expect lengthy delays.
- **SCOTLAND**
A837 Hillside, Montrose; roadworks and restrictions in both directions.
M8 Edinburgh junction 2 Newbridge Spur (M9); major roadworks, with lane closures on the roundabout.
A8 Princes Street, Edinburgh; no motor vehicles as it is closed eastbound. Diversions via South Charlotte Street, Queen Street and York Place.
A92 Tay River Bridge; maintenance work in place at the bridges. Also lane closures southbound.
A78 Lockhill North to New Cumnock; temporary traffic lights in place, 4 miles East of Dundee.



AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

AFTER THE 1959 LAUNCH OF THE MICHELLETT-SHED TRIMPH HERRILL, AN A32 ADDED WHETHER CAR MARKERS REALLY HAD TO RESORT TO USING DESIGNERS' PENCILS.



WARREN G. HARDING WAS THE FIRST U.S. PRESIDENT TO TRAVEL TO HIS INAUGURATION BY MOTOR CAR — A 1920 PACKARD TOWN SEDAN.



PREPARING FOR THE 1956 CUBAN GRAND PRIX, JOHN MANUEL FANGIO WAS KIDNAPPED BY FIDEL CASTRO'S GUERRILLAS.

DRIVEN MORE THAN 4,000 MILES AROUND BRITAIN'S COASTLINES, A TOYOTA CATERA E AVERAGED 76 MPG.

Britain launches the battery-driven super-sports car, while new entrants transform the American market

New electrifying performers

Lotus's Elise is a petrol beater

Lotus's Elise is to be given electrifying performance. A prototype electric Elise is due to be unveiled at an automotive show in America next month. It will have twin electric motors producing 200bhp — 70 per cent more power than the petrol-engined car, writes Stuart Birch.

It should reach 60mph in under five seconds with a top speed of at least 125mph. And if an owner wanted to trade range for performance, the 0-60 time could be even quicker.

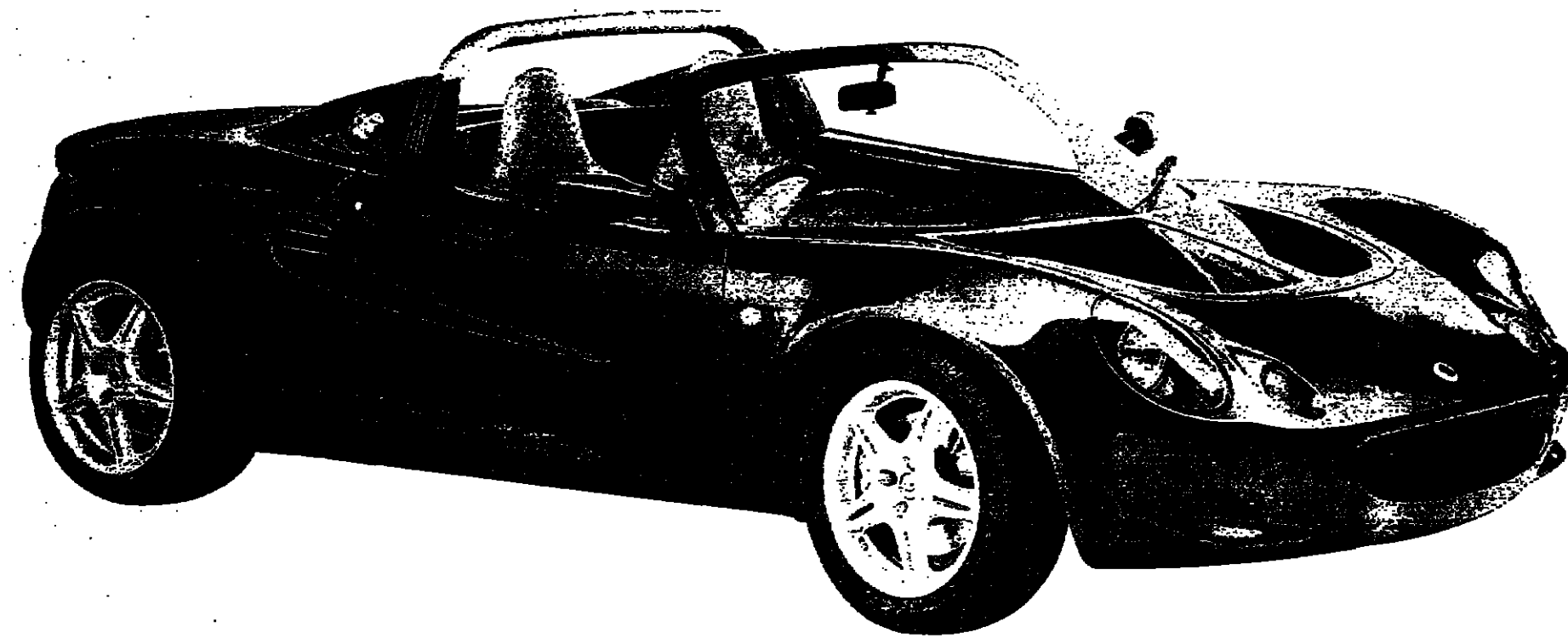
The electric Elise is the idea of Zytex Automotive of Sutton Coldfield, who are now assembling the prototype. Despite having to carry batteries to give it an average 150-mile range, it should weigh about the same as the standard 1.8-litre, 118bhp car and have the same spectacularly impressive ride and handling.

"No one has ever built a road-ready electric supercar before, the driving experience will be quite astonishing," promises Zytex's director, Bill Gibson. Zytex is working in collaboration with Lotus, taking care of all electronic development work, while vehicle engineering is the responsibility of Lotus. The Midlands company has already supplied electric motors for the Chrysler Intrepid ESX hybrid concept vehicle.

But how can an electric Elise, lugging batteries around, really handle as well as the original? It is all down to Zytex's lightweight electric motors, weighing in at 13kg each, which, claims the company, provide the highest power-to-weight ratio of any electric-motor vehicle available today. There is only one moving part — the rotor — and the only sliding parts are the bearings. It provides maximum torque from zero speed, eliminating the need for a conventional gearbox. The motors will be positioned where the car's mid-engine would normally fit.

The motors and the 300-volt nickel cadmium type batteries use aerospace technology. The batteries replace the fuel tank and are placed at the front of the car, just ahead of the scuttle. Zytex believe this will give the electric Elise similar balance to the original and weight close to the standard car's very light 723kg.

Zytex plans to show the car at the Society of Automotive Engineers' International Congress and Exposition which opens in Detroit on February 24. Last year the show was



Claimed power for the electric Elise is 70 per cent more than the petrol-driven model and the handling is as good. Batteries not included, though: you may have to lease them



Ford's Ranger EV is an electric version of the world's most popular single vehicle



GM's EV1 is already seeing demand outstrip supply, though buying costs are high



Honda plans to lease 300 of its EVs in California, despite their slow acceleration

attended by 47,000 people, mainly motor industry specialists from across the world.

"There has been nothing else quite like this. It is a serious project, not just a one-off for publicity. The Elise is an exceptional car in standard form and we realised it would be a perfect vehicle to accept our lightweight, electric vehicle systems."

Gibson adds: "The standard car does not need power steering or power brakes, both areas where additional conversion work would have been required. The vehicle structure is unchanged from the standard Elise, and Zytex is engineering the entire conversion. Our aim is to make electric vehicles desirable, not just necessary through government mandate."

"The Elise forms an ideal testbed for high-performance electric vehicle technology but, depending on response from its exposure in Detroit, we

believe it would be suitable for low volume production."

The big question, though, is how much the production electric Elise would cost. General Motors' EV1 electric car costs about the same as a much larger fully equipped petrol-engined Cadillac. GM has eased this problem by leasing the EV1. Gibson believes a production electric Elise could be sold for the same price as a petrol-engined model but would be supplied without batteries. These might be leased annually, the price possibly comparing with a typical petrol bill for an average year's driving. But the detailed economics have yet to be worked out.

"This is a radical departure for the British motor industry. We are working in collaboration with Lotus and expect to have development vehicles travelling very quickly — and quietly — around their test track this spring."

Now Ford joins the charge in America

Ford is following General Motors into full electric-vehicle production with a typical American pick-up, writes Chris Wright.

Pick-ups are big business in the US and Ford sold a staggering 780,000 versions of its F-Series "truck" last year, making it the most popular single vehicle on the planet. Now the company hopes an electric version will help preserve the planet.

Called the Ranger, it was unveiled at the Los Angeles motor show this week and

goes into production later this year. It will be launched into the southern states to compete with GM's EV1 electric car, which is already seeing demand outstrip supply.

The Ford Ranger EV has 15 years' worth of electric vehicle research packed into it. John Wallace, director of Ford's

alternative fuel vehicles programme, says: "From our experience with advanced batteries we have developed the most sophisticated battery management system available. The bottom line is that with the Ranger EV there is a very high level of reliability and performance."

The 200lb battery provides 90bhp and its liquid-cooled motor is governed to a maximum speed of 75mph to preserve a 58-mile driving range. An acceleration time to 50mph of 12.5 seconds is only half a second off that of the petrol-powered pickup.

So why choose a pick-up as

its first full production electric vehicle? Ford vice-president Ross Roberts says: "We wanted to offer a vehicle with reliability, durability and with built-in safety that could also offer 700lb of payload."

Ford admits it still has a long way to go with electric vehicles despite the pressure being exerted by some US states, particularly California which is demanding that car-makers sell a percentage of so-called zero-emission vehicles.

Range and battery weight is still a problem, but GM's EV1, which went on sale in Los Angeles, Phoenix and Tucson a month ago, has already achieved 76 sales with a further 29 orders taken — exceeding supply from the factory in Tennessee.

The car is not cheap, at close to £30,000. The buyer profile, according to GM, tends to be high earners, £30,000 a year plus with "multi-vehicle households".

Honda is also entering the EV market in California with its own new vehicle called the EV Plus, also launched at last week's Los Angeles Motor Show.

The small hatchback is the first production vehicle to use advanced nickel-metal hydride batteries, and it will be leased to private customers for \$499 a month — around £300. However, they first have to pay out around £2,000 for the infrastructure required for charging the batteries. To buy the car would again cost more than £30,000.

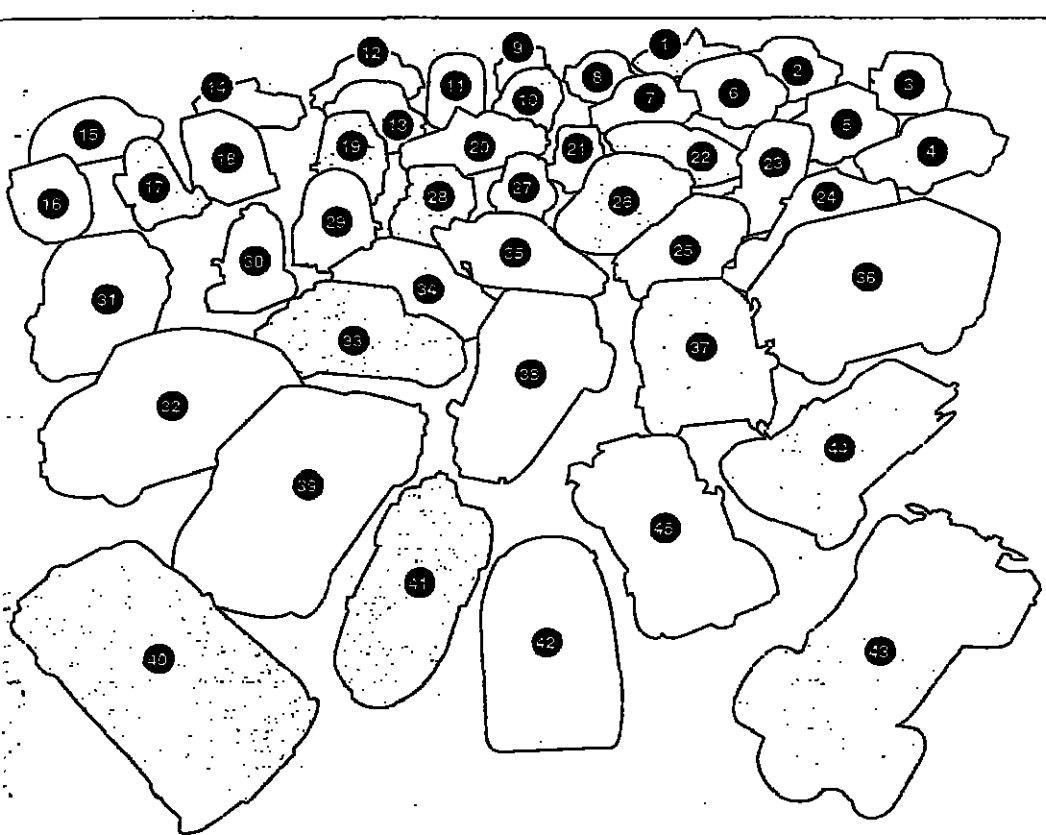
Tom Elliott, executive vice president for American Honda, says: "By designing the EV Plus to use advanced battery technology with seating for four and a versatile cargo area, our goal is to market it as a reliable everyday transport."

Honda plans to lease out around 300 of the vehicles with delivery starting in May. It accelerates to 60mph in a pedestrian 17.7 seconds although it has a claimed top speed of over 80mph. Driving range is 100 miles.

Electric vehicle expert Alan Cocconi believes there is plenty of fun to be had with electric vehicles and has proved it with his T-Zero two-seater sports-car. His company, AC Propulsion, wowed the media at the Los Angeles Motor Show by showing how the car could outdrag a Chevrolet Corvette and return a better driving range than the EV1.

Cocconi knows a thing or two about EVs: he was one of the original development team for the Impact concept vehicle, the forerunner to EV1, and his company produces electric-drive systems already used by a number of carmakers.

Cocconi is now looking for a partner to help put the car into production in small numbers. He is aiming at around 300 cars priced at around £60,000.



- 1 Berkeley B-90 (1958)
- 2 A.C.M.A. Vespa 400 (1958)
- 3 Zundapp Janus 250 (1958)
- 4 Berkeley B-90 (1958)
- 5 P. Vallee Chantecler (1957)
- 6 King S-7 (1959)
- 7 A.E.M.S. Inter Berlina (1955)
- 8 Isard TS 400 Coupé (1958)
- 9 King Midget (1987)
- 10 Heinkel Kabine 154 (1957)
- 11 Fiat 600 Multiple (1957)
- 12 NSU Prinz IE (1960)
- 13 Mikrus MR 300 (1959)
- 14 Berkeley T-60 (1982)
- 15 Fuldamobil N-1 (1955)
- 16 Reliant Regal MK1 (1953)
- 17 FMR Tg 500 (1959)
- 18 Solito (1959)

KEY TO BUBBLES

- 19 Bond Bug (1973)
- 20 Rovin DA (1951)
- 21 Mochet Velocar CM-125 (1961)
- 22 Spatz (1956)
- 23 Mochet Velocar CM-125 Commercial (1953)
- 24 Fiat 500 Topolino (1938)
- 25 Mochet Velocar CM-125 Grand Luxe (1954)
- 26 Victoria 250 (1956)
- 27 Messerschmitt KR-175 (1954)
- 28 Kleinschmitt F-125 (1952)
- 29 Trojan 200 (1982)
- 30 Messerschmitt KR-201 (1958)
- 31 Baby VB 80 (1949)

- 31 BMW Isetta 600 (1959)
- 32 Fuldamobil N-1 (1951)
- 33 Messerschmitt KR-200 (1958)
- 34 Top (1961)
- 35 FMR Tg 500 Tiger (1960)
- 36 Goggomobil TL 400 Transporter (1958)
- 37 BMW Isetta 300 (1957)
- 38 Bond Minicar MK B (1952)
- 39 Goggomobil T 400 Limousine (1959)
- 40 Kleinschmitt F-125 (1954)
- 41 Rollera (1958)
- 42 Peel Trident (1964)
- 43 FMR Tg 500 Tiger Cabriolet (1960)
- 44 Messerschmitt KR-201 (1958)
- 45 Rolux Baby VB 80 (1949)

Continued from page 1
auction record for such cars but a perfect specimen of the rare FMR Tiger, for example, has been known to change hands for £20,000 or more.

Peter Svilar, the mechanic who carried out much of Weiner's restoration work says: "This car, used for continental touring, added an unexpected new angle to microcar collecting. These cars are really a blast to drive. Direct steering, adjustable Formula One type rear suspension, twice the power of a Messerschmitt 200 and phenomenal handling and cornering, give a truly thrilling experience unlike any other vehicle."

None of the cars in the Weiner collection is in anything but excellent condition. Bruce insisted that they should all be restored down to the last nut and bolt and should all be driveable. Some have had up to \$60,000 spent on them. "I don't think I'll get back all the money I've spent on them, but it's been such tremendous fun collecting them," says Bruce.

Peter, who worked on sports cars before specialising in microcars, says: "In North America these are looked on largely as a novelty. People driving by in their big Cadillacs just stare or laugh."

"But they are fascinating bits of engineering. They each have their own virtues. The Tiger is the best drive. It's just like a go-kart. They reflect national characteristics. The German ones are generally well-engineered. Some of the French ones have very poor handling but such a lot of charm. The British Bond was pretty klunky looking but very practical," says Peter.



Bruce Weiner in a Kleinschmitt F-125: "I don't think I'll get back all the money I've spent"

wreck, really derelict and ready for scrapping. We just had to make a lot of the parts."

The fascination of microcars stems from the way in which they reflect their time. Most were made in Germany and that is the centre of enthusiasm. The world's largest collection is at a museum in Story near Frankfurt, more than 150 microcars fill the buildings around a 16th-century courtyard. When the cars first appeared in the 1950s many of them bore the names of makers who less than a decade earlier had struck a chill through British hearts. Messerschmitt, Heinkel and BMW had turned

their attentions from aircraft to providing basic transport for a nation in the throes of reconstruction.

Many of them were made under licence, the Heinkel in Ireland, for example. Others came from Italy and France while some of the wackiest were made in Britain, the weird frog-eyed Bond Bug and the sporty, three-wheeled Berkeleys.

The simplicity and skill of the engineering which went into their design has accumulated a cult following. Stirling Moss still drives his Isetta occasionally around London and other loyal users keep the flame alive. Another of the large

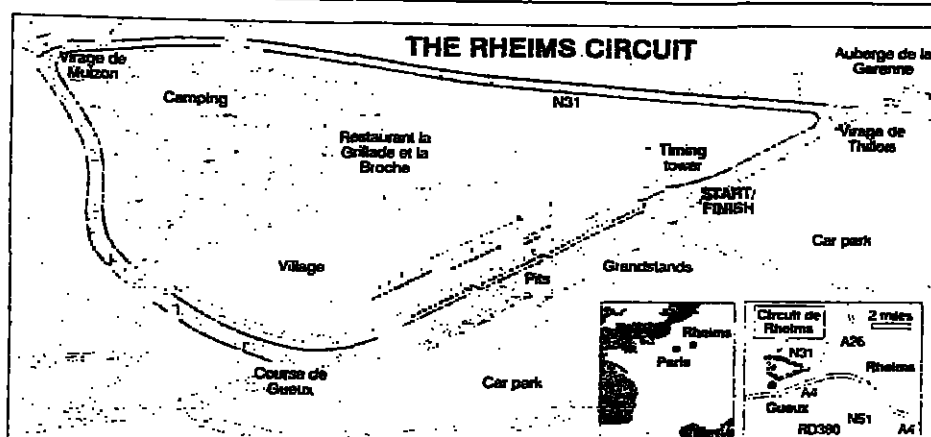
collections is to be found in a barn in Kent, carefully guarded by Jean and Edwin Hammond who run the Register of Unusual Microcars.

The historic town of Marburg hosts an annual gathering of the Messerschmitt club of Germany, and there is a national microcar rally in Britain each year.

The Bruce Weiner collection and related Automobilia will be sold by Christie's at Jack Barclay's showroom, Vauxhall, London on March 6, two days after the company's collectors' cars auction there. Information and catalogues 0171-539 9060.

Historic Rheims dream recreated

The famous French racetrack's glory days are set to be recreated this summer, reports Eve-Ann Prentice



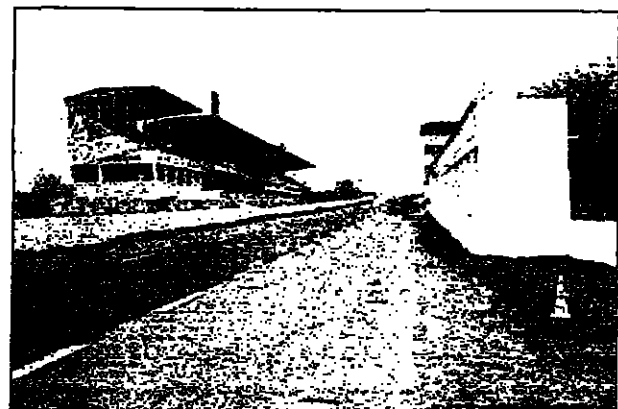
It is so long since grands prix were held at Rheims that Damon Hill remembers the circuit for driving his pedal-car there.

The current Formula One world champion was pictured at the circuit alongside his father Graham, who held the track's lap record in 1962.

Now, nearly 30 years after the last grand prix was held at the track in the heart of Champagne country, the circuit's glory days are to be recreated. Stirling Moss will join other motorsport legends at the grand-prix and 12-hour race re-enactments in the first weekend of July.

Between 1925 and 1969 the Rheims circuit at Gueux-en-Champagne became one of the fastest in Europe. Damon Hill says: "What I find amazing is that my father, who built half of his reputation on the curvy roads of Monaco, was just as comfortable on the long straights of Rheims."

This year's recreation of the sights, sounds and smells of



Scenes from Rheims, from left: the start line at the narrow-looking track; Harry Schell at the 1951 French GP in his Maserati, and Richard Pilkington in a 1938 Talbot Lago

Rheims will take place on July 5-6 and be strictly a one-off event. The organisers, the Automobile Club of Champagne-Ardenne and Promocourse International, have won permission from the French government to close the main Route Nationale 31, which forms one side of the eight kilometre (five mile) circuit for the weekend.

British motorsport enthusiasts have made Rheims a place of pilgrimage in the decades since races ceased to be held there and the good news for them is that entrance to next year's event will be free.

Trisha Pilkington, who runs the Tops Enthusiasts Club based near Dartmouth in Devon, has been assigned the task of finding British cars and

drivers to take part. Stirling Moss will be there, Tony Brooks and Roy Salvadori, she says. "We have rounded up about 40 so far including six former Rheims winners. Ken Wharton and Peter Whitehead who had the first win in a Jaguar D-Type in 1954 will be there."

Pilkington has just returned from a visit to Rheims and she

adds: "Restoration of the old pits and grandstand is already well in hand. Many trees have been removed which were growing up through the buildings and structural checks have been carried out on the grandstands to ensure they are fit for public use." Between 40,000 and 80,000 people are expected at the event.

Rheims has been at the

centre of motoring history since the start of the century: five key factories opened there, including Brasier and Germain Lambert.

The racing circuit largely owes its existence to one man, Raymond "Toto" Roche, who began dreaming of a racetrack using public roads in 1923, when Rheims was still recovering from the ravages of the

Great War. After Roche retired in 1967, the Rheims circuit only survived for two more years.

Rheims holds a special place in French history as the cathedral city where most French kings were crowned, where the German army surrendered on May 7 1945, and as the capital of the Champagne region. The irony is that

alcohol advertising is strictly banned at French motorsport events — even though generations of champions have sprayed gallons of the stuff in celebration.

Next year's re-enactment of Rheims's heady days will be almost non-stop, lasting from 9am on the Saturday morning until 7pm on the Sunday with just seven hours' respite between 2am and 9am on the Sunday. The timetable includes recreations of pre and postwar Formula One, Two and Three races, and the famous Rheims 12 Hours. There will be demonstrations by touring cars, GTs and single-seaters.

"They are not allowed to have out-and-out races because the pits are within a couple of feet of the track but there will be no lack of speed — people don't half go for it," says Pilkington.

Anyone wishing to contact Trisha Pilkington should telephone 01803 722357.

Helen Mound on the Dutch women Citroën racers



Competitors include secretaries, students, and one of Holland's top soap actors

Playboy girls' thrilling laps

THE CONTEST'S name suggests gorgeous women modelling on the bonnets of racing cars, promoting that droll of men's magazines, *Playboy*. But these aren't your usual doe-eyed centrefold babes, they're Dutch racing drivers competing for the hotly pursued Citroën Saxo Cup.

Driving at speeds up to 127mph against 23 other racing drivers, these women are beating the men at their own game, despite many of them never having driven a race car until last year. Out of a national line-up of 24 drivers, Holland has eight female entrants, and they have their own women's championship, known as the Citroën Saxo Playboy Cup.

In the 1996 Europe-wide Citroën Saxo Championship there were 220 entrants competing in seven national series: Holland, France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Switzerland. When Germany joins the Championships for the 1997 season the number of competitors will rise to 300. But it's Holland that has the greatest proportion of female entrants.

Only the liberal-minded Dutch would consider holding a female championship

sponsored by an organisation as politically incorrect as *Playboy*.

Single-marque championships are commonplace in the UK: manufacturers such as Honda, Peugeot, Renault, TVR, Volkswagen and Westfield regularly sell their cars to enthusiasts who race against each other. But for now, Citroën UK has no plans to introduce the Saxo Championships in Britain.

The Saxo race car is very different from other single-marque race cars, because Citroën spent more than six months developing it for its very specific task. Most car manufacturers produce basic stripped-out versions of their road cars and leave the customers to develop them into tuned racing machines.

The French company went to great lengths to produce a racer so close to an optimum specification that there's very little customers can do to improve it. Normally in racing, the more money you spend the better the car you have, and the greater your chance of winning. But by giving everyone the best possible car from the outset, Citroën has ensured that winning relies on the driver's

talent rather than the size of their budget.

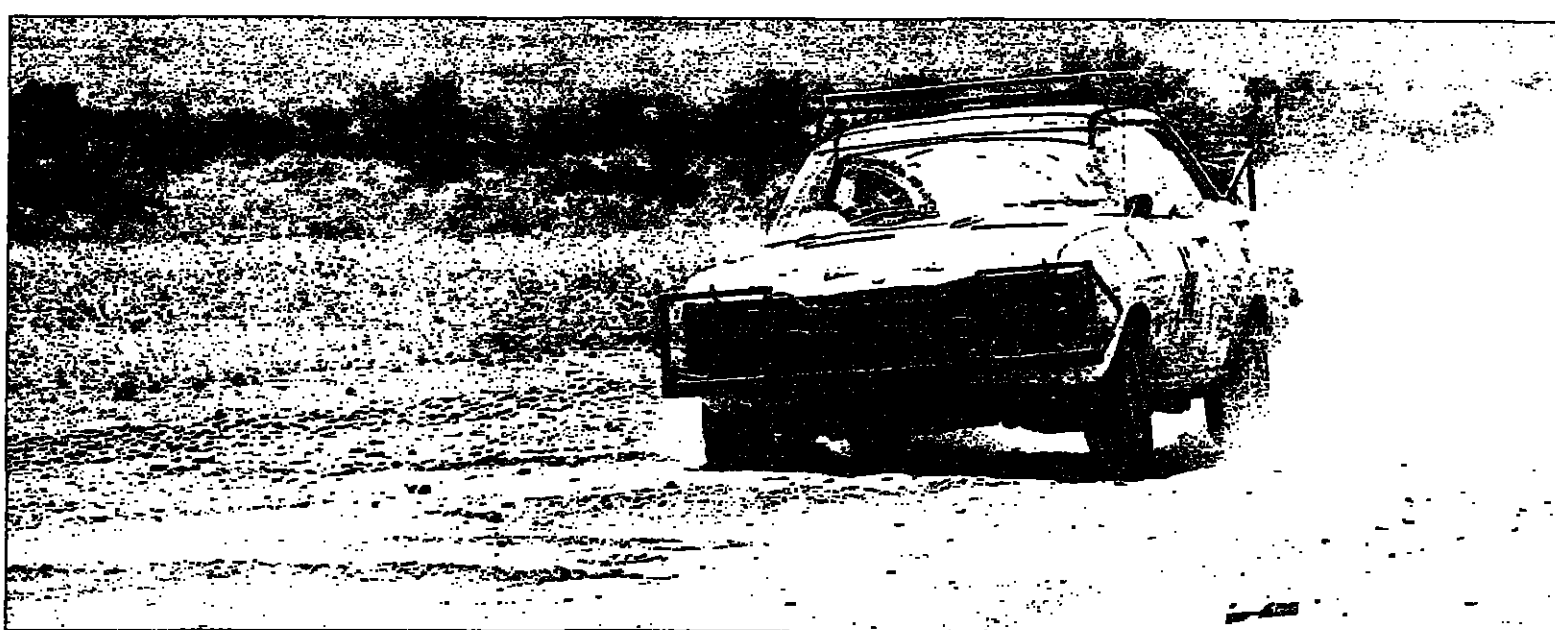
Some of the women racing for the Saxo Playboy Cup have the potential for big budgets. Ingeborg Wieten is Holland's top television soap actress. But others are secretaries and even students with limited funds.

TO COMPETE in a full season of the Saxo Championship, Dutch entrants need around £10,000 to £15,000 to cover running costs, and the car costs another £11,000. In motorsport terms this is considered cheap.

One thing the *Playboy* racers do have in common is youth. To ensure a competitive edge, Citroën introduced a 35-year age limit, which means older, more experienced, racing drivers don't spoil the youngsters' fun.

The result is a truly exciting racing series. The action is so close that the time separating the winners from the losers across the finish line is often less than two seconds, and the top ten are usually split by tenths of a second. Compare that with Formula One, where the winner can often be several laps ahead of the last-place man.

Calling all classic car adventurers. It's the century's last London to Sydney rally



Chris Woodley's three-litre Vauxhall Ventora roars through Turkey in 1968. The organisers are keeping to the original route as far as possible

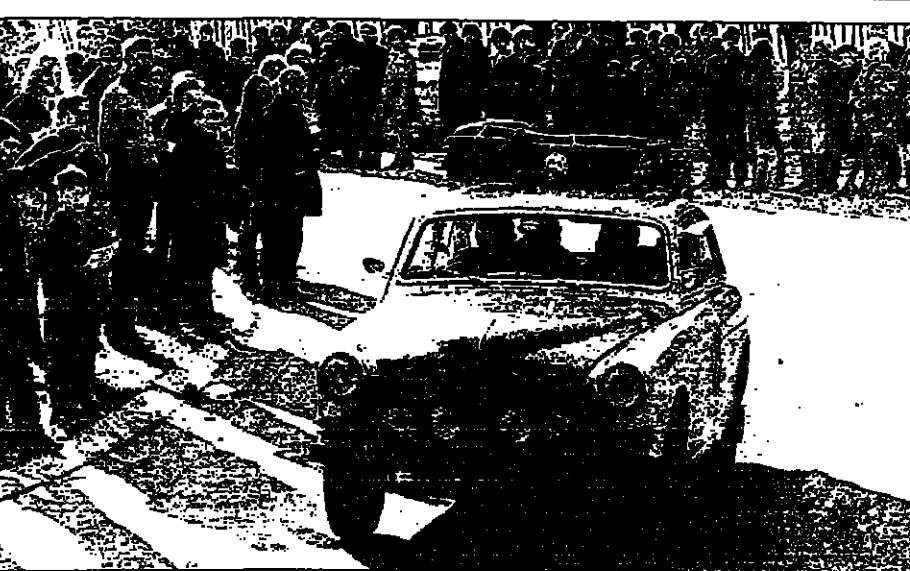
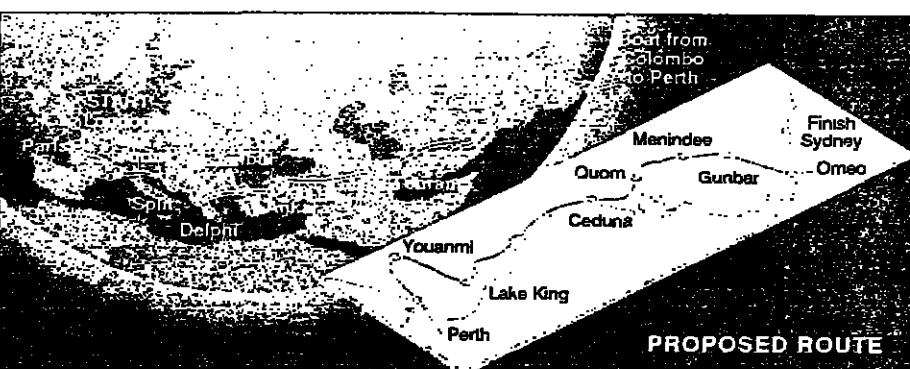
Tower Bridge, one of the landmarks of the London Marathon, is to be the starting point for another sporting odyssey next year — but it is one that spans 10,000 miles, writes Eve-Ann Prentice.

Plans were unveiled this week for a London to Sydney classic car rally starting in November 1998. The event, for up to 75 cars, will mark the 30th anniversary of the 1968 rally and is likely to be the last great trans-continental epic of the century.

The Classic Rally Association, which is organising the run, says it is aimed at cars which were in production before 1968. "Porsche 911s and Ford Escorts are unlikely to find favour with the organisers, who want to place an emphasis on older cars," said a spokesman. However, classes for 1.4-litre hatchbacks and modern diesels are also being considered.

The course, across Europe and Asia to India, by sea or air to Perth in Western Australia and then through the mid-summer heat of the Antipodes to Sydney, is closely based on the 1968 route. One key change is that war-stricken Afghanistan is bypassed, with entrants crossing the North West Passage region of Pakistan into India.

Travelling from one side of the world to the other means that politically sensitive areas cannot be avoided altogether. The rally is planned to travel into Iran, where women entrants will be expected to cover their legs and wear a headscarf.



John La Trobe and Bill Chesson's Volvo leaves Crystal Palace on the first rally

"Some Americans were very uneasy about Iran, but provided they don't emblazon themselves with the Stars and Stripes and go drinking, there shouldn't be a problem," says Peter Browning of the Classic Rally Association. "We have

found friendly co-operation from all the countries we intend to pass through."

The organisers are investigating a choice of route to Istanbul, the favourite being a possible reopening of the dramatic Dalmatian coastal high-

way in the former Yugoslav republic of Croatia and Montenegro — the course driven by the second London to Sydney rally in 1977.

The marathon is planned to continue across Greece and Turkey before entering Iran.

and roads en route have changed little since the 1960s. Once in India, entrants will be airlifted to Perth or shipped by roll-on, roll-off ferry from Colombo in Sri Lanka.

Philip Young, who heads the organising team, has also masterminded this September's Peking to Paris Motor Challenge. Young has recently driven from India in a Peugeot 504 bought from the classified pages of *Classic Car Weekly* for £1,200. He considers slightly older Peugeot 404s, Triumph 2000s, Austin 1800s, Rover 3-litres, MGs and Citroëns all "budget front-runners".

Entrance fees have not yet been fixed but Young hopes to keep it to around £5,000 to enable as many people as possible to consider entering. There are no special stages "or anything that smacks of modern motor sport", he says.

The 1968 event was won by Andrew Cowan, Colin Malkin and Brian Coyle in a 100-horsepower Hillman Hunter, just pipping the BMC "Landcrab" Austin 1800 driven by Paddy Hopkirk, Alec Prole and Tony Nash.

More than 80,000 people watched the start of the 1968 rally at Crystal Palace in London. Next year's event, with time controls and checkpoints intended to recreate the original style and flavour, aims to "attract adventurers who enjoy driving classic machines, with the camaraderie that springs from conquering long distances with fellow enthusiasts", says Young.

Petrol and diesel pumps look so similar: this is what can go wrong

What the juice? How forecourt confusion can make you feel a stranded four-star fool

DIESEL MIX-UP

One mistake cost Susan Brown a wrecked day and a good deal of money

My car stopped about 300 yards from the garage. It had been coasting as if I had run out of petrol; odd, because I had just filled it up.

I spent some time pressing the accelerator to coax the newly purchased petrol through the system. The more I did it, the less enthusiastic the engine sounded. Eventually it felt as though only the ignition was co-operating.

I gave up, worried about the battery. Six years in this Volvo without major incident. I thought, and this is the day it all ends. This conviction was strengthened by the smell from the car. I was blocking one of the two lanes on a main London artery. It was 3pm.

It was only now that a connection between this trouble and my recent visit to the garage occurred to me. Had I put in the wrong octane? I fished out the till receipt. It said: DERV £35.64.

Derv? Not petrol? I had passed into a nether region, a place I'd heard about dimly but had never visited. A puncture or a flat battery can elicit sympathy. This was just horribly stupid.

The plans for the day flashed in front of me. My daughter's return from school at 4.30pm. The invitation to tea at 4.45pm. The evening out at 6.30. The absence of a mobile phone. The thin clothing. I put on the warning lights, locked the car and nudged back to the garage. "I've just filled up with Derv by mistake. What do I do?"

The attendant shook his head. "This is going to cost you a lot of money."

I rang the AA. A woman said: "You'll need to get the tank pumped out. If you go to an AA depot it'll cost about £30. If we tow you to a garage it'll cost more than £85."

I plumped for the depot. As I was a woman on my own, someone would be there as quickly as possible, she said. I cancelled my arrangements and went back to the car.

After an hour and a quarter I rang again. "We've been trying to contact you," said a man. I didn't ask how. "One of our contractors is going to take you back to a garage in SW5 and then they'll charge you. It'll be about £85 and then there'll be a charge for disposing of the fuel."

"I want to go to an AA depot," I said. "I was told that would cost £30."

"Who told you that?"



Susan Brown thought her Volvo's life was ended when it ground to a smelly halt

"The first person I spoke to." "Well, you can't go to the depot. We've allocated you to a contractor."

Faced with this arcane world of depots and contractors and pumping out I grew petulant.

"Look," I said. "I don't know anything about all this. I just want to go to a depot because it's cheaper."

"I'll get my supervisor."

A man came on the line who had been specially trained to talk to hysterics who had just filled up with derv. He did not know where the £30 figure had come from. In fact the depot would cost £70. Challenged, he agreed that the contractor's bill was likely to be well over £100.

"I want to go to the depot," I chanted.

"I'm going to put you on hold. Bear with me." He disappeared. I bore with him for a good ten minutes. When he came back he was speaking even more slowly and gently.

"We're going to take you to the

AA depot. In Weybridge. One of our contractors is coming out to you now with a towaway vehicle."

My contractor arrived a little ahead of schedule. On the way to Weybridge he agreed that not wearing the AA uniform did sometimes pose a problem. Once he had been called out at 2am to help a woman whose car's electronics had failed on a remote road. She had just managed to give the AA her whereabouts when her mobile phone batteries ran out. When he arrived she assumed he had come to murder her. It took him

an hour to persuade her to open her window wide enough to take his mobile phone and check his bona fides.

At the reception in Weybridge we discussed costs. It emerged that AA policy had changed at the beginning of December. Previously, sorting out what I had done was considered a normal call-out. Now, it was the driver's fault, and the depot was required to pass on its costs to me.

The mechanic in reception said they had four or five cases a day, but that wasn't enough nationally to justify changing the nozzle shape of diesel pumps. Most petrol engines, he said, would suffer no long-term damage, but putting petrol in a diesel engine could wreck it.

It was cold. There was a handful of tattered magazines. I waited an hour and a half. No one told me what was happening. The same man came out and said they couldn't get it started: "This happens sometimes."

Finally, mercifully, it did start. We completed the paperwork. They charged £10 for a bit of petrol to get the car to a garage and £70 for the repair. Then it cost another £35 to refill the tank.

I now belong to the secret brotherhood of people who have contaminated their fuel tanks. I arrived home six and a half hours later than intended, to face my family's derision.

Getting the pumps wrong is very expensive: it takes a very long time; it can destroy your engine and (I'm told by friends) your relationship. And everyone thinks you're a complete fool.

Pat Prentice used his hard-won experience to save another driver from the same trap.



Pat Prentice used his hard-won experience to save another driver from the same trap

PETROL MIX-UP

Pat Prentice fell victim to a badly signed forecourt, but discovered he wasn't alone

Fergie, an old grey diesel, was the first vehicle I ever drove on my own, at the age of eight. By the time I was 15, I had managed combines, cars, motorbikes and vans and even an old Jowett truck with a crash gearbox.

It was Lincolnshire and the policeman rode a pushbike and lived in the next village. Stubble field or road, it made no difference.

I had also mixed fuel for my model aircraft engines. In those days, amyl nitrate was something you popped 3 per cent of into the little tank to make your 3cc PAW Combat Special a bit zippier.

I knew the difference between paraffin, petrol and diesel — the agricultural and commercial varieties.

Since then I have driven snow scooters in Iceland, catamarans off Queensland, spud spinners near Spalding and aircraft in Africa. I have even instructed a museum curator on handling a horse-drawn binder.

So how, after all this time, did I find myself sitting in the middle of London in my newly acquired diesel Land Rover Discovery with the increasingly embarrassing feeling that three days earlier I had contrived to fill it to the brim with petrol?

And how was it that even after my discreetly mirthful mechanic had arrived and confirmed my suspicions, did I still feel so certain that I couldn't be entirely that stupid?

In the ensuing hours, I manfully struggled and faced the ridicule. I knew as I left the pub that night that the final long burst of laughter as I closed the door was for me.

And yet I knew I had checked the pump.

It bothered me for quite a while as I ran my newly emptied and then refilled tank.

There was the diesel pump just as I remembered. It said: "Diesel" in big letters and was set apart from the petrol pumps. I checked again. Beside it was a smaller sign also saying diesel, and, one saying four star. Surely, this was the premium diesel I had read about in my manual?

The manager was on the forecourt taking delivery of petrol in a tanker. I called him over.

"Excuse me, what comes out of this pump?"

"Diesel," he assured me. "No," I said. "Petrol."

He looked quizzical, then puzzled. He scrutinised the labels on the pump. "Ah. No. Er... This one's petrol. This side, on the right. That is diesel, and there is more diesel on the other side."

There. "He did not sound spontaneous. But I was as I harshly advised him to label the different pumps more clearly. I left to fill up elsewhere."

With hindsight, and goodwill, I can see that there was room for error on both sides. I may still be the biggest bonehead in motoring.

Yet nowhere did the pump say "Petrol".

For the next few days I began to feel a little vindicated. I passed the filling station regularly. I don't intend to go back. A few days later, I glanced at the diesel pump.

There was a woman just about to fill up her diesel. Discovery. I bumped to a halt and shouted. She looked startled as I jumped out and crossed the road towards her.

Then I explained, breathlessly, that it was petrol. The diesel's on the other side. The nozzle next to it. Her reply was better than gratitude. "Oh. Thanks," she said, turning a bit red in the face. "Confusing, isn't it?"

There. "He did not sound spontaneous. But I was as I harshly advised him to label the different pumps more clearly. I left to fill up elsewhere."

With hindsight, and goodwill, I can see that there was room for error on both sides. I may still be the biggest bonehead in motoring.

Yet nowhere did the pump say "Petrol".

For the next few days I began to feel a little vindicated. I passed the filling station regularly. I don't intend to go back. A few days later, I glanced at the diesel pump.

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Three light years to hit 100mpg

Vaughan Freeman on how VW will seek a Holy Grail in the Dead Sea

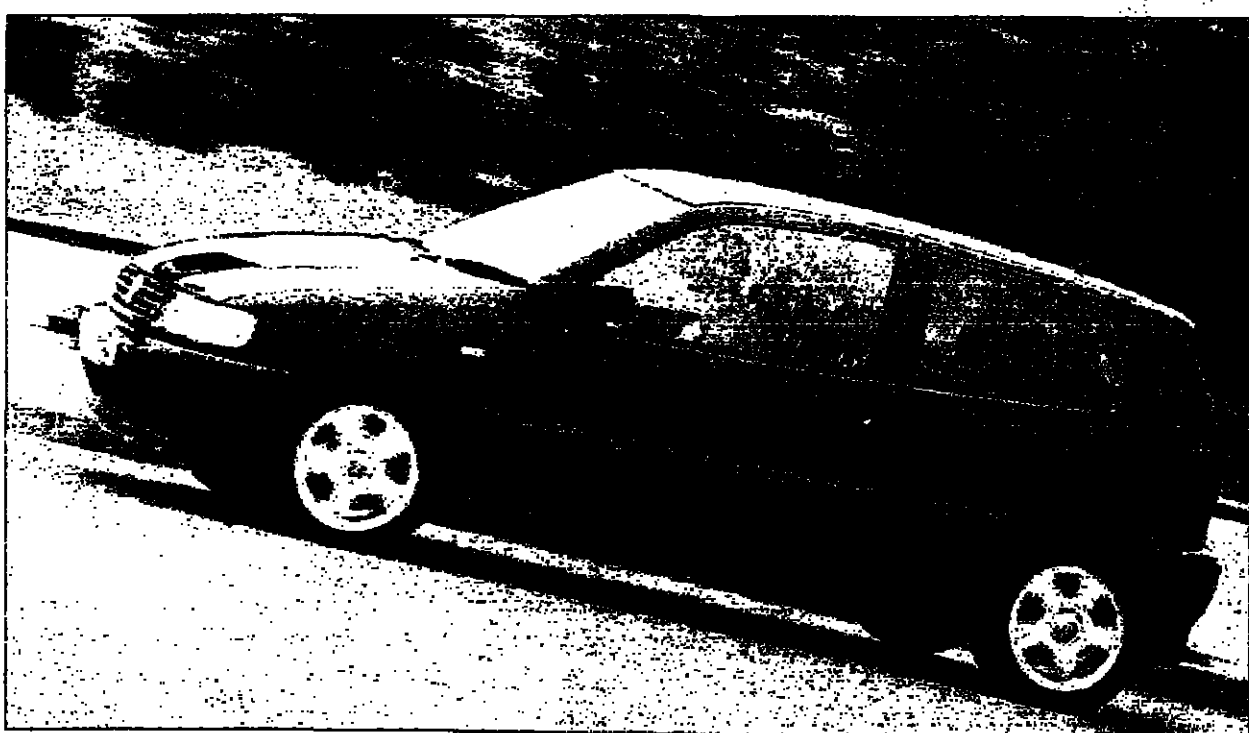
The 100mpg car will be on our roads within three years, says VW, thanks in large part to a weight-saving regime that would put even the Nigel Lawson diet plan to shame.

The secret ingredient of the super-light and super-frugal mini VW of the very near future is magnesium, a fraction the weight of steel, and which from early next year VW will be extracting in huge amounts from the mineral-clogged Dead Sea.

At one time, every manufacturer sought to include in its model range a car that would reach 100mpg. Doing the "ton" is now old hat, illegal and politically incorrect. It is the mass-built car that can achieve 100mpg, in everyday conditions and driven by the

average motorist rather than a leather-footed expert, that is the modern motoring Holy Grail. Such a vehicle would offer the manufacturer enormous prestige, and represent a quantum leap to make motoring more environmentally friendly, not only because the car would consume less fuel, but also exhaust emissions would be cut at a stroke.

VW is not the only carmaker homing in on the 100mpg target. Ford has just unveiled a radical concept version of its Ka, the Ka Step One, which weighs 610 kilos (just over half a ton). Ford has turned to carbon fibre mouldings, very light, strong but too expensive and complex to employ for a volume production run. The Step One may be a one-off for now, but the company says it



The Polo, currently VW's smallest car: the 100mpg vehicle will tip the scales at barely two-thirds its weight

has achieved 90mpg under strict test conditions.

VW got its fingers burned with its Golf Ecomatic, production of which has now ceased, and which was based on the diesel Golf. The Ecomatic saved fuel by automatically turning off its engine when the car was stopped, for instance at traffic lights, then restarted when the driver

pressed the accelerator. But the idea never caught on, not least because motorists were not prepared to pay the extra £800 over and above the cost of a regular Golf TDI, however "green" it was.

So VW's 100mpg car will sell for around £8,000, with highly expensive lightweight composites shunned in favour of tried and tested, albeit unusual,

alternatives that are amenable to mass car construction.

Dietrich Meyerderks, head of the VW Environment and Transportation Department, says: "We want to be the first manufacturer to offer a high quality 100mpg car, and we are quite confident that we can do it before the end of the century. We can definitely say that it will be a five-seat

vehicle. We will not accept any compromise in terms of safety. It will be smaller than the current Polo, not cheap, but competitive."

It will be capable of just over 80mpg, and with a somewhat leisurely 0-60mph time of just under 20 seconds, but as well as passengers (four in comfort and five at a squeeze) it will be able to carry some luggage.

How will the dream come true? Like Ford, VW has started by cutting vast amounts of weight. Unlike Ford, rather than relying on pricey and technically complex carbon fibres, the weight savings are coming by the use of aluminium for the chassis, as has been tried and tested in the Audi A8 (built by VW's luxury carmaking arm), and magnesium. As a result the 100mpg car will tip the scales at barely two-thirds the weight of its current smallest car, the Polo.

Magnesium will be used for the gearbox casings, which will save 4.5 kilos compared to the usual iron version. Magnesium was used to save back-end weight on the VW Beetle with its rear-mounted engine and gearbox, but the alloys then used were prone to corrosion and magnesium was expensive. Now VW claims the magnesium being refined at its plant on the Dead Sea is much purer, less prone to deterioration, and by entering a joint venture partnership in its production hopes to guard against fluctuations in price.

Aluminium, which strength for strength is up to 40 per cent lighter than steel, will also play an important role without any loss of crash protection. Plastics too will be used where possible rather than glass. By using plastic composites in the headlights, VW have cut the weight by two kilos.

But humble steel is not dead

yet. New technologies will use thinner sheets of steel sandwiched together, offering greater strength and rigidity, but which will be between 10 and 15 per cent lighter than conventional steel car sections.

Making the car more aerodynamically slippery means a new VW will have a fluid, streamlined shape, reducing air resistance by 20 per cent. This brings a 10 per cent fuel saving at motorway speeds.

It is not just about saving weight, however. The car will have a super-efficient direct injection diesel engine, and probably a six-speed gearbox so that motorway speeds can be achieved in top gear with the engine running at extremely low revs to minimise fuel consumption.

Nothing will be left to chance, and even the tyres will be specially designed to cut rolling resistance and get the most out of each gallon. The "miser" tyres, using special tread patterns and newly-developed rubber compounds, will cut rolling resistance by 40 per cent, resulting in a 7 per cent fuel saving.

Over recent years cars have become increasingly abstemious. In 1978 the average small family car consumed around 28mpg. A decade later that was 35mpg, and now it is 40mpg. By 2005 the overall average should be 47mpg.

CAR 97

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4 PTH	2000	15 SLV	15
CH 100	CH 100	10-20	10

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P75 05	C248	SOU 2Y	
PUB 03W	C420	BE SON	
PUM 13W		5 SON	
PRY 05	C559	800-800	
RO PY	C420	65 SPP	
	R	55 SF	
700 R	C600	7000 SN	
RAB 06P	C759	30 SS	
RAC 05P	C168	5TH 257	
BID RAD	C558	194 SUE	
BO RAF	C358	1542 GUE	
BZ RAJ	C869	SUE 965W	

T-200	JAN FRED	1968	BS T.G.
T-201	MRS FRED	D-402	T.G.I
T-202	SAR FRED	FBI	N.T.S

12990	40 PEX	0239	482 TME
12995	PISC 640	0259	595 TMM
12996	640 PSL	0260	174 TME
12997	27 FM	0260	86 TCM
12998	420A FM	0260	87 TCM
12999	FM 363	0260	930 TCM
13000	RL 336	0260	58 TPT
13001	3 FM	0260	102 TCM
13002	RC35-227	0260	2 TP
13003	RM RCD	0260	174M
13004	RS-RCD	0260	AM TPT
13005	AMBI RCD	0260	10 TR
13006	RC35 RCD	0260	TR TCM

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18 JAN	1980	18 JAN	1980
19 JAN	1980	19 JAN	1980

2700	284-287	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2701	288-291	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2702	292-295	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2703	296-299	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2704	300-303	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2705	304-307	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2706	308-311	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
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2713	336-339	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2714	340-343	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2715	344-347	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2716	348-351	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2717	352-355	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2718	356-359	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2719	360-363	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
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2723	376-379	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2724	380-383	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2725	384-387	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2726	388-391	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2727	392-395	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
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2738	436-439	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2739	440-443	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2740	444-447	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2741	448-451	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
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2744	460-463	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
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2752	492-495	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2753	496-499	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2754	500-503	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2755	504-507	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
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2757	512-515	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
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2765	544-547	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
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2767	552-555	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
2768	556-559	CHRG	0 WA	CHRG	
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JA290	TDD 782	CI085	VPA 72	2
CI190	TDD 64	CI275	88 VPA	2
CI190	TDD 334	CI405	VPR 88	2
CI276	PS TEL	CI226	082 VRF	2
CI275	PS TEL	CI180	VSD 187	2
CI085	PS TFC	CI285	VTK 154	2
CI286	TPE 21	CI286	VTY 57	2
CI285	PS TEL	CI285	VYD 89	2
Y2885	PS TEL	CI275	823 VOK	2

2005	2006	1 WDJ	2005	2006	012 WDJ
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01405	PIR TON	01405	01 WED	01405
01405	00111 TOO	01405	WEE 430 E	01405
01405	TOV 78	01405	WET 471 E	01405
01405	0 TP	01405	5839 WF	01405
01405	TPA 3038	01405	0917 WFM	01405
01405	TPC 82	01405	WAM 8002 E	01405
01405	002 TPC	01405	WAM 85 E	01405
01405	TPN 826	01405	WVH 52 E	01405
01405	0054 TR	01405	WJ3 3465 E	01405
01405	708 TR	01405	477 WJH E	01405
01405	001 TR	01405	4431 WJH E	01405

2425	UNB 3	21570	WTF 19
21770	SS UNCL	2205	WFL

2545	UCT 582	5846	271 WFR
2585	P17 UKB	2885	W3 WSL
21100	U3M4504	2395	WSP FL
23745	P11A UMS	2765	W3B 588
25446	HP 7002	23040	W3B 748
21885	B13 UPN	21995	A1 WTF
25485	B13 URT	2305	2807 WU
21360	L11 JST	21675	4720 WU
21200	U3S 20	21198	2274 WU
25495	2308 VAL	2395	W3 2243

01205	VME 670V	2106	YDD 880
0845	WHV 50	01706	YEB 700

E5796	YJ 04	E2005	YB 8122
E1395	YJ 1848	E108	YJ 7781
E1575	YGM 01	E1795	YS YMM
E1585	Y11 YGN	E005	ZE YME
E1205	YMX 1W	E005	ZB YO
E405	YLC 25	E1795	Z3 YPF
E205	YLN 87	E1405	YPO 317
E205	Y51 VMT	E1005	Z011 YRD
E0005	YV 4250	E1200	YRK 758
E205	YV 723	E05	Z005 YRM

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Happy birthday, 90 years ahead

It's the time of the signs

MOTORISTS TAKE them for granted now at every turn and twist of the road. Most of us never give them a second thought, except in the very rare event that they are wrong. But this month, the AA is celebrating the 90th anniversary of Britain's first directional road sign, a modest circular wooden affair put up in Hatfield, Hertfordshire. Alan Capps writes.

Those first signs were put up on the approaches to towns and villages, and simply gave the name and the mileage to the nearest place of any size. On the roads of 1907, with garages few and far between, they were an invaluable guide to pioneer drivers.

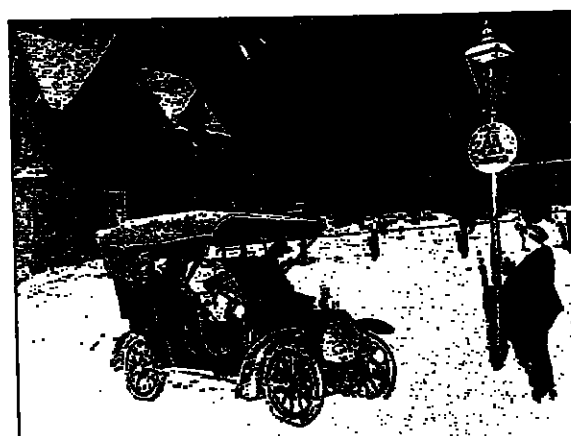
Most were removed during the Second World War but more than a hundred are known to survive. They were the first product of AA Signs, the organisation still responsible for the familiar yellow signs that point motorists to events from a village festival to Wimbledon or Euro 96.

From the safety point of view, a more important pioneering effort was probably the reflective sign.



Early reflective sign

with its balls of red glass embedded in a wooden post to warn of sharp corners. These led to the standard road warnings we know today.



The first directional road sign, at Hatfield, 1907

Why don't drivers take heed?

Better forecasts are in store, says James Luckhurst

Winter always seems to take motorists by surprise. However far ahead the bad weather alerts, and however many warnings are issued by motoring organisations and local authorities, there are usually plenty of reports of mayhem, tailbacks and accidents.

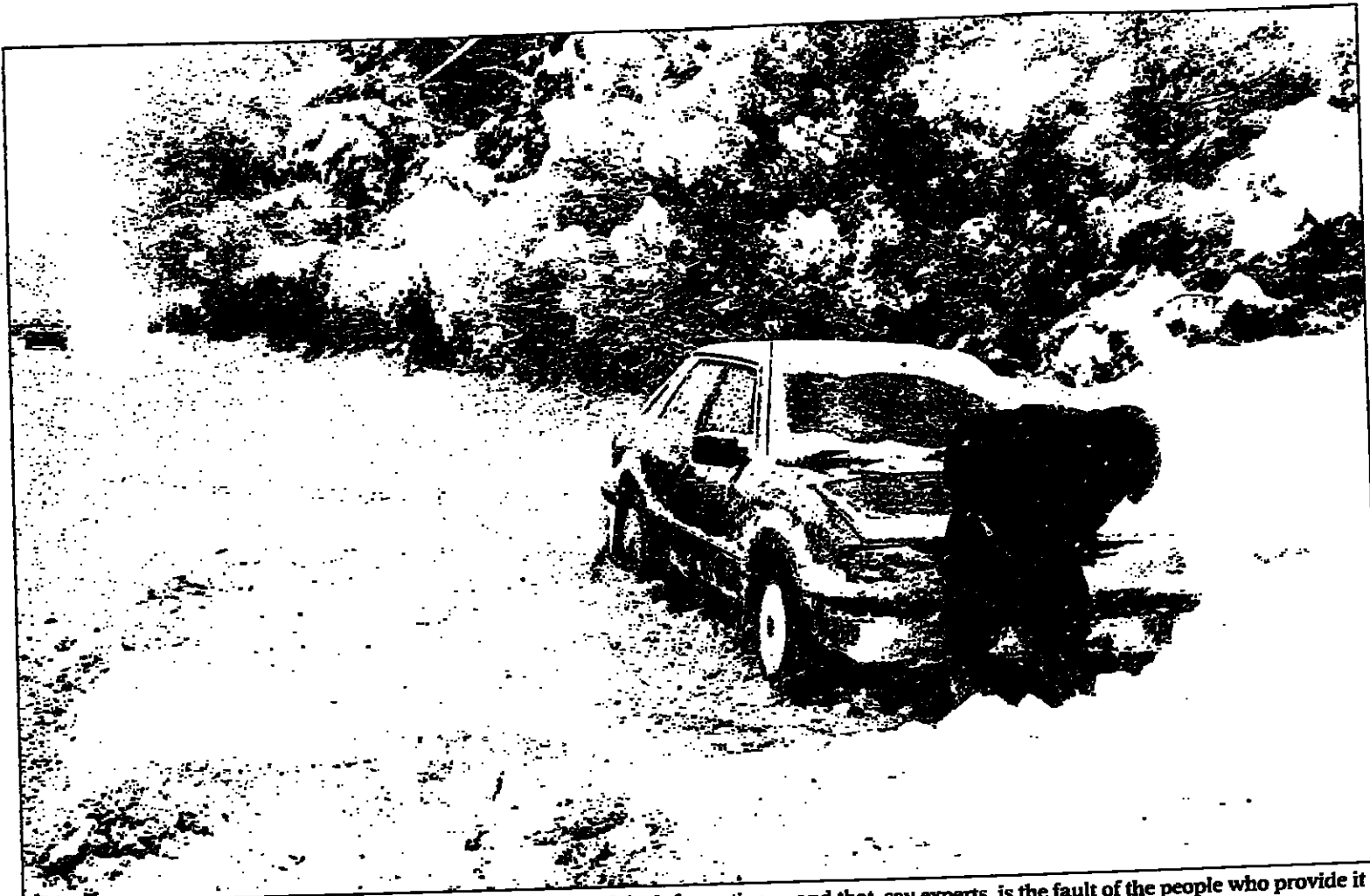
Are the forecasters or the motorists to blame, and is there ever likely to be a change in the pattern? Next week — assuming that road conditions allow them to make the journey — a group of experts will gather in London to address those questions.

One of them is Roland Chaplain, who established a network of weather watchers ten years ago to provide reports and predictions to help those responsible for keeping Scotland's roads safe.

Information to motorists has hitherto been restricted to road condition reports that could be several hours old, he says. "We have to move towards a situation where we can find out the likely conditions in a few hours' time. That's far more useful for motorists, as they can plan their journeys accordingly."

The traditional perception of weather information is that it should be free, and Chaplain's vision follows that idea, with organisations who might otherwise be in competition sharing information. "The present system is working against the public interest. Weather forecasts need to be involved not just in scientific interpretation but in providing accurate but easily digestible information that's in the best interests of the audiences who want it."

So will the time come when motoring organisations can go beyond frequent warnings to take care, allow extra time and



Motorists get under the weather because they aren't on top of the information — and that, say experts, is the fault of the people who provide it

carry a shovel in the boot? Nick Simmons of AA Roadwatch is excited about the future, but with reservations about cost. "Any organisation that provides accurate, relevant information has to be concerned with profitability. We are looking into on-line services, the Internet and sophisticated in-car equipment to provide the sort of weather information drivers want, at an affordable price."

But there's a big danger in putting dynamic meteorological predictions into the hands of non-experts who do not appreciate when they are relevant and when they have become out of date, according

to BBC Radio 5 Live's weather expert Philip Eden. "Motorists have been accused of ignoring warnings from motoring organisations, but this may well be because the warnings themselves carry little that's new or relevant."

The truth is that much better, more up-to-date authoritative information does exist, and organisations like the Met Office are now more geared to providing customised forecasts that best serve the interests of their commercial customers. "We have developed extremely accurate local forecasts that pay close attention to road surface temperature over a period of

hours," says Met Office spokesman Andy Yeaman. "Roadside sensors positioned strategically at sites chosen by council officials allow us and them to monitor changes in surface temperature that may call for a gritting operation."

To grit, or not to grit, is a complicated question, and one that could prove very expensive if a council manager gets it wrong. A full grit of the roads in Kent, for example, costs between £45,000 and £55,000, takes just over two hours and includes more than 2,000 miles of road. So if the grit proves unnecessary then a

big chunk of the county's £3 million winter weather budget has disappeared. Conversely, the legal implications of failing to grit when snow or ice does arrive are increasing.

"The gritting process has improved dramatically over the past few years," says Dr John Thorne of Birmingham University, who is president of the Standing International Road Weather Commission. "It used to be the case that weather forecasters knew little about roads, and highway engineers knew little about weather, but greater co-operation, as well as training for the engineers, has done a lot to right that situation."

This is just as well, as highway meteorology has a much higher profile these days, when a fatal accident can lead to legal claims worth millions, according to Chaplain. "The way weather impacts on the road and transport is getting much more important, yet we are still waiting for a system where everyone can benefit."

John Thorne and Roland Chaplain will be speaking at a workshop on road weather conditions organised by the Meteorological Society, to be held on Wednesday January 15 at Imperial College, London

GENERAL

WINTER BREAKDOWNS ARE "SNOW" FUN...BUT HERE'S HOW TO AVOID THEM!

Surely, it's the one thing all motorists dread. Picture this: After a week of cold, frosty nights you take your car on its first long journey of the winter. Your young family are with you. It's getting dark early and a snowstorm that left the roads white earlier in the day has restarted with a vengeance. Then you stall the car on an unfamiliar, lonely B road...and it won't restart! What do you do? There are no blankets or warm clothing in the car, thick snow outside, the car is well and truly stuck and you don't yet belong to an emergency rescue organisation. Time to panic? Possibly. But none of this need ever happen if you take a few sensible steps now and get your car ready to survive the winter months. Car breakdown service Autonation Rescue has sponsored this special feature to help you and your car get through the colder months without ever having to worry about this nightmare scenario. And this is what you should do...

SNOW PROBLEM

In deep snow, if you experience wheelspin trying to start off then don't carry on racing the engine. This will only dig the wheels in deeper. Instead, try moving your car slightly backwards and forwards to get out of the rut, using the highest gear you can (first or second) for the conditions. Although you have to watch your speed on slippery roads, any loss of momentum going uphill on snow won't get you very far. But trying to regain lost speed may result in so much wheelspin that you lose control. Again, use a high gear uphill and leave a good gap behind the vehicle in front of you so that you can avoid a queue or hold up if he or she gets completely stuck, leaving you the option of passing. Choose the best gear for the whole climb and get there in that gear. Changing gear on the way up in snow is never easy, even for the best drivers, to avoid wheelspin and loss of momentum.

Generally:
• When bad weather sets in, only make journeys if they are absolutely necessary, especially at night.
• Make sure you have your car serviced at regular intervals, whatever the vehicle's age, so that it is less likely to cause you problems when you least need them.
• Make sure you have your car serviced at regular intervals, whatever the vehicle's age, so that it is less likely to cause you problems when you least need them.

Join a breakdown organisation - it will offer you peace of mind and prove invaluable in the event of a breakdown. And always carry your breakdown service membership details with you.

That's the useful, general advice. But there are several checks you can make before setting off on a winter journey.

CHECK ONE: You should check that all your lights are working, from headlamps to indicators, fog lights to hazard warning. Also, check your interior lights - you don't want to get stuck in the dark if you can avoid it!

CHECK TWO: Check your washer bottle liquids and the wipers themselves.

CHECK THREE: Is the spare tyre fully inflated and does it have sufficient tread?

CHECK FOUR: Is the spare tyre fully inflated and does it have sufficient tread? Especially if you get stuck in traffic. This is a major cause of breakdowns.

CHECK FIVE: Sorry to be so basic, but do you have enough petrol for your journey? Especially if you get stuck in traffic. This is a major cause of breakdowns.

On longer journeys, it's wise to let someone know your destination, the route you'll be taking and what time you expect to arrive. And take a hot drink in a flask with you and some food.

ESSENTIAL WINTER WARMERS

Why not carry these items in your car through the winter:

Two blankets
Extra warm clothing
A snow or ice scraper
Hazard warning triangle
Spare light bulbs
First Aid Kit
Torch
Maps
Anti-Static Mats for a piece of old carpet. But make sure it's always fully charged.
And carry a mobile phone if you have (or can afford) one, so that you can get the best out of your ventilating and heating system when your windows mist or frost up.
Another piece of sound advice is to study your car's handbook, so that you can get the best out of your ventilating and heating system when your windows mist or frost up.
Whatever you do, don't drive unless you can see properly all around you and treat other cars you see which are frosted or misted up as special hazards. The biggest single danger for any driver is not being able to see properly, so carry some demist/de-ice for the windscreen and other windows. But perhaps the most important rule of all in bad weather conditions is to keep your speed well down. The worse the road conditions, the slower your speed. There's no mileage in plunging through puddles...or skidding on ice.

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Schumacher's toy story winner

Same name,
same sport, but
miniaturised.

It's a small
world, says
Simon Hacker

Success is a funny thing. While some young hopefuls called Schumacher spend their lives tearing after it, others with the same surname have it thrust upon them.

So runs the story of Northampton businessman Cecil Schumacher. If you'd asked him 20 years ago what he'd be doing by the age of 60, he might have predicted a happy retirement from his career as a design engineer in the motor industry. In a key post with Borg-Warner by 42, his boffinish head had already been hunted and bagged by Cosworth. But fate decided that this Schumacher was destined for smaller things.

"It all started at home. I was working on a race transmission system for Cosworth and my son Robin kept nagging me for a model car. I didn't want to get involved because I was so busy, so I bought him a low-tech one-eighth scale battery model."

However, because Robin's new racer had no front differential, the front tyres kept wearing out. "When he kept coming back for more money for tyres, I had a look at the car and decided to design and fit a diff myself."

But the solution proved too popular — Cecil found that Robin's friends all wanted one for their models. Cecil was unable to secure a patent for the subsequent "Schumacher diff", a simple but innovative ball-bearing mechanism driven by friction, but he decided to test the market all the same. Soon, a thriving kitchen-table industry began.

Investment in a plastic-injection-moulding machine quickly followed and Cecil began a partnership with his wife Brenda, with son Robin and his two sisters chipping in for pocket money. Before long,



Cecil Schumacher with examples of his radio-controlled cars. One record-breaking model has exceeded 70mph. Not bad for a venture that started on the kitchen table as a favour for his son's friends

production demands for an emerging range of tiny accessories necessitated relocation to the garage, weeks later the mini assembly line for complete small-scale racing machines spilled over into the garden shed.

The first full Schumacher model was the highly successful C Car, a one-twelfth scale buggy which sped off to win the model racing world's European Championships in 1985 and 1988.

Mindful of the risks though,

Cecil kept his day job, viewing the sprouting of Schumacher Racing Products as little more than an amusing sideline. But all that changed when Brenda took him aside one evening to look at the accounts: "She showed me that the weekend

work was bringing in more than my time at Cosworth — we knew that it was time to go it alone."

Today, Cecil's company has an annual turnover that tops £2 million, providing work for a team of 32 in purpose-built facilities. Each year, Schumacher components, kits and assembled cars are exported all over the world, costing between £70 and £300 for basic models without radio controls. Power comes from either methanol-fuelled combustion engines or electric battery-driven motors.

In a recent test around Silverstone's main circuit, a Schumacher test model set speed records for its class by averaging 50.5mph and exceeded 70mph on the straights. Schumacher pilot Tim Walden used a Caterham as a pace car. A tankful of fuel for the model cost 20p.

The company's current equivalent to the Ford Escort in volume terms is the one-tenth scale Competition All Terrain 2000 European Champion, or CAT. The first CAT, Cecil explains, pioneered new ideas and was "driven" by Masami Hirokawa to win the 1987 four-wheel drive World Championship — the first of many world titles. At competition races, off-landers can average around 25mph over tough terrain, although they can nudge 60mph on manicured lawns.

If you suspected that racing radio-controlled cars was just kids' stuff, the Schumacher workshop and design room is

a revelation. Cecil's world is one of shrink-wrapped Formula One: all the talk is of carbon-fibre chassis (the material is bought from a US aircraft builder), anodised aluminium shock absorbers and titanium "speed seeker" components. Adults and teenage model racers spend as much time tweaking suspension, programming gearing around a circuit — we and our drivers have to know how to optimise a car's performance over many parameters. If you choose the wrong ratio, for instance, you might chase away from the start only to

choice and suspension settings, you could be at any motorsport event."

Each year, Schumacher Team Racing sponsors young drivers who are unpaid, but get to race the latest kit and can travel all over the world for the big events.

"The rules that govern radio racing ensure a degree of skill which goes beyond thrashing around a circuit — we and our drivers have to know how to optimise a car's performance over many parameters. If you choose the wrong ratio, for instance, you might chase away from the start only to

find the batteries or fuel have gone in the final circuit. You have to judge when to put special fluid on your tyres for extra grip — and how that might affect performance."

Much of the growth of miniature motorsport that has assured Schumacher's success as modelmaker seems to have come from a kickback from interest in computer games: "Parents now realise that these models are an antidote to screen watching. They get you out into God's fresh air and the kids learn all about engineering and the basics of motorsport."

But although model racing is essentially a nuts-and-bolts, hands-on sport, Schumacher's latest product, the SST 2000, can be bought as an off-the-peg one-tenth scale touring car, aimed at the emerging ready-to-race market. "We traditionally occupy the more serious end of the market — racing for guys who race to win. They want high-integrity products and though they want to beat the competition, they don't necessarily like to spend their time building from kits."

But at the chequered handkerchief, surely a fair chunk of Cecil's success has come down to his name? He laughs, but doesn't agree. "The name thing has certainly been a lot of fun — I get a lot of leg pulling and it's hardly harmful if people believe that there is a connection between the two of us. But our company stood on its own two feet before Michael came along — and it'll continue to do so."

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So how can we play?

Q My son is a bit of a tearaway. He's always fancied himself as a racing driver, but he's hardly going to hit the track in his old Mini. Do you think model racing might be a good outlet for his aggression or enthusiasm?

A Well with all the current fears about road rage, anything which gives young drivers a chance to work off a bit of energy sounds worth a try. But model racing is a bit more than a miniature burn-up. Top drivers take it seriously and the technology that goes into the cars resembles the real thing.

Q You mean like every other hobby the boy has tried up till now, it's going to cost me an arm and a leg?

A When it comes to the question of cost, we doctors like to refer you to a specialist: Chris Deakin, editor of *Radio Race Car International* magazine, says the rules ensure that the pace of technology doesn't make the sport unaffordable. "You can get into racing for as little as £200, but many of the latest electronic onboard aids could rule starters out — that's why traction control had to be banned."

DR DASHBOARD

Q Traction control? Whatever next? Who formulates the rules for these model racers?

A The British Radio Car Association (BRCA) oversees scaled-down events in the UK. As many as 12,000 racers attend its meetings each year. For a free information pack, write to the BRCA at PO Box 122, Bolton, BL7 9WV.

Q I hope the rules aren't too complicated — my boy is not known for the length of his attention span. How strict are the regulations?

A For each race, the type of engine is specified and scrutineers check that each unit is sealed before and after battle. In championship races, the engine is usually taken apart to ensure it has not been souped up, while at battery-powered events, the cars are allowed one charge only per race.

Q This is beginning to sound like really serious stuff. How fast will these miniaturised machines go?

A The most advanced technology has already made speeds of up to 60mph possible on grass. But the BRCA is very anxious that beginners should not be priced out of contention. There are similar strict rules to limit the strength of Nicad batteries, some of which now have huge capacity.

Q So would the doctor recommend this as an instructional pastime for my occasionally wayward son?

A Again a specialist opinion is best. Chris Deakin says: "A lot of the participants begin as frustrated Damon Hills, but they soon learn that this is no easy option. It's not for kids who want to play with toys."

Q So where can I take the boy to see what this radio-controlled motor racing stuff is like?

A Contact the BRCA for details of local meetings. He could go a long way if he gets the bug. Last year the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu played host to the world championship for methanol-powered off-landers. There's also a European championship.